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Premier begins final phase of dialogue

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah will begin today, (Saturday) a series of meetings with a cross-section of the society aimed at reviving the parliamentary life in the country.

Well-informed sources said that the Crown Prince will hold four final meetings during the current holy month of Ramadan. Sheikh Saad will begin by meeting with the chairmen of public societies at Bayan Palace

this morning. Another meeting will be held on Monday, April 9, with the chairmen of trade unions to listen to their views about the return of the parliamentary life in the country.

Sheikh Saad will receive on Tuesday the chairmen of the Kuwaiti shareholding companies to discuss the same subject. The discussion may be expanded to tackle the economic situation and the measures needed to

activate the local economy. The Crown Prince will conclude his meetings on Wednesday by meeting with the leaders of the sports movement in the country. Presidents of sports federations, clubs and the board members will be invited to the meeting. The discussions will focus on the return of National Assembly.

Sheikh Saad is expected to continue his discussions throughout the month of

Ramadan with the diwaniyas and other prominent personalities. According to well-informed sources, the Crown Prince will submit his final report on the return of parliamentary life to HH the Amir immediately after Eid Al Fitr holidays.

The sources said the Crown Prince was in the "final stage of a dialogue" with representatives of various positions whom he was sounding out on the best way to restore the

parliament suspended in 1986. Pro-democracy activists, led by members of the dissolved 50-seat parliament, began a campaign late last year for the reopening of the House, staging a series of public rallies.

The government banned the rallies but the Amir ordered a nation-wide dialogue on the matter, carried out by the prime minister.

However, the sources gave no details on the outcome of the 2-month-old dialogue.

but Sheikh Saad in March reported progress in his consultations with the representatives of public opinion.

He said he was for "a parliament that not only acts as a watchdog but to which the government will be accountable as well."

But he added that certain "controls" should be found to avert a repetition of the crisis that prompted the dissolution of the National Assembly in 1976 and in 1986.

Kuwait economy stable: Kharafi:

LONDON, April 6. (Kuna): Kuwait's Finance Minister Jassem Mohammed Al Kharafi has denied that there have been political motives for the withdrawal of Kuwait from the Arab Economic Unity Council, described the economic situation in Kuwait as stable and predicted a decline in the current budget deficit.

In an interview with the London-based Arabic language "Al Jadid" magazine, to be published next Monday, Kharafi pointed out the stability of the real estate market in Kuwait and the dealings at the stock exchange market.

He also pointed out the improvement in the transit trade in the region, but said the economic situation is not clear yet because of absence of accurate estimates for oil revenues, but he predicted a cut in the current budget deficit.

As for the Kuwaiti decision to withdraw from the Arab Economic Unity Council, the minister emphasised that there have been no political reasons for this step.

He added that the council's staff was inflated and indicated abuse of available facilities it was having to the point that 95 per cent of its budget were for salaries and was even unable to pay them.

Answering a question on reasons for the failure of Arab economic organisations, Kharafi said "the lack of seriousness is the most important reason from realising their objectives."

He emphasised the importance of benefiting from these adverse experiences in the future, hoping that the recent measures in the joint Arab action would result in closing of ranks so as to avoid the negative experiences of the past.

On a question about the Arab economic conditions in the light of the single European market due to be effective in 1992, Kharafi said these conditions are based on the Arab situation and any progress in coordination among Arab countries should be carried out calmly and gradually so as to be based on correct grounds.

He referred to the Gulf tripartite committee, of which he is a member, and said the committee had discussed in its recent meeting held in Riyadh, a report on the impact of the international changes on the Gulf region.

He added that the committee is going to hold other meetings later this year so as to be able to present a report to the forthcoming summit conference of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

The GCC summit held last December formed a tripartite committee grouping Kharafi, Oman's minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Bin Alawi Abdullah and Bahrain's Minister of Information Tareq Al Muayyed.

The committee was assigned with carrying out contacts with the European Economic Community on economic relations between the two groupings.

The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development is to extend a \$350,000 grant to Egypt to help provide consultative services necessary for reclaiming 400,000 acres of land north of Sinai.

Army fires on crowd in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, April 6. (AP): Police opened fire today on a crowd of pro-democracy demonstrators marching toward the palace in the capital of this Himalayan kingdom, witnesses said.

They said at least five people fell to the ground. Police immediately carried the five away and their condition was not known, the witnesses said on condition of not being identified.

(See Page 2)

Ramadan timings

Imsak: 4.00 am
Iftar: 6.10 pm

NEWSWATCH



Jazz great dead

Jazz great, Sarah Vaughan shown at the Newport Jazz Festival, died April 14 at her home in Los Angeles suburb of Hidden Hills, a police spokesman said. A close friend said she died of lung cancer.

Details Page 3

Homage

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto pays homage to her executed father former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, at his grave in Lahore on the occasion of the anniversary of his death April 4.

Details Page 2

Marcos fraud trial opens

NEW YORK, April 6. (AP): Former Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos agreed to buy a Manhattan office building in 1981 after first balking at the deal proposed by his wife, Imelda, according to testimony yesterday at her fraud trial.

The former top official of the Philippine National Bank's New York branch said Imelda first mentioned the building to him during a visit to New York in 1981 and asked him to help persuade her husband to buy the skyscraper for \$50 to \$60 million.

"The first lady said she was counting on me to do a good job in convincing her husband in buying the building on Fifth Avenue and 57th street," said Oscar Carino, who for 11 years managed the bank that prosecutes say Imelda used as her "piggy bank" for spending sprees.

Carino also recalled that New York state bank examiners threatened to close the bank in 1982 if millions of dollars withdrawn by Imelda were not replenished.

He said the bank provided her with an average of \$100,000 in cash every time she visited New York, and the debt climbed from \$600,000 in 1973 to as much as \$22 million in 1984.

Instructions for the withdrawals came from Imelda's private secretary, Fe Rox Jimenez, Carino testified. Jimenez is an unindicted co-racketeer and is expected to testify in US court trial.

Imelda, 60, and her husband were charged in the 1988 indictment with mail fraud and obstruction of justice and mail fraud. Marcos, who was ousted from office in 1986, died last September in exile in Hawaii.

His co-defendant, Saudi financier Adnan Khashoggi, is charged with mail fraud and obstruction of justice for allegedly backdating documents to help the Marcoses hide their ownership of four Manhattan buildings.

Carino, the first Filipino witness, said he received four phone calls from Marcos after his wife said she wanted to buy the crown building, which is one of four properties the Marcoses were charged with purchasing with \$160 million allegedly embezzled from the Philippines treasury.

In the first call, Marcos instructed Carino to find out about the building's commercial value and ordered an engineering survey, the witness said. In the second call a few days later, Carino said Marcos expressed frustration about his lack of knowledge about the building.

Khashoggi was "shocked" to hear Marcos and Imelda, but he never heard them sell property built with plundered millions, the former arms dealer's lawyer said.

In his opening statement, Khashoggi's lawyer, James Lim, called the former multimillionaire a scapegoat of the Marcoses who even fell for a story of a "ship of gold" the Philippine president wanted disposed of overseas.

Marco told Khashoggi he had a ship of gold, Lim told the jury of seven women and five men.

"He told him, 'I will give you 10 per cent of that gold if you will find a port for it ... preferably an Arab port,'" he said.

Lim said former president Marcos told Khashoggi — who is standing trial with Imelda Marcos — that he wanted to use the money to fight the threat of communism in his country.

"This guy fell for it," said Lim, laughing, as Khashoggi smiled wanly.

Ties, flights if Israel assures: Moscow

US and Soviets narrow differences

WASHINGTON, April 6. (Reuter): US and Soviet officials said Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze appeared to warn to the idea of talks between Moscow and Israel on direct flights on Soviet Jews to Israel if Israel provided guarantees that they would not be settled in the occupied territories.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the regional issues were discussed in a second day of talks between Shevardnadze and US Secretary of State James Baker.

But the officials who briefed reporters said the Soviet side reiterated its insistence that a unified Germany should not be allowed to join Nato.

As the talks took place, the White House announced that US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will hold a summit meeting between May 30 and June 3, probably in Washington.

US and Soviet officials expressed the need to reduce arms on the peninsula where North and South Korea have massive military forces facing each other. And one Soviet official suggested that Moscow might be preparing to establish full diplomatic relations with South Korea.

US officials repeated their suggestion of cross-recognition — that Washington recognise North Korea and Moscow recognise South Korea if tensions in the region are reduced.

On Afghanistan, where US-supported rebel forces are seeking to overthrow the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah, US and Soviet officials said Baker and Shevardnadze agreed that elections might be the best way to settle the issue.

But the American officials said they would not support such elections under the control of Najibullah.

"Progress was made, in my view, in a sense on Afghanistan," said a Soviet official.

Soviet and American officials said that although Moscow still saw a unified Germany in Nato as a potential threat, the Soviet Union had no immediate answer for the problem.

"So if it's not reached at this crisis — and the Arab states, particularly Iraq, continue with the development of missiles and chemical and nuclear weapons at the level of development we would tolerate before striking, be said.

"At some point there are going to be 'red lines' that are going to be reached," Steinberg said. "And the question is where that point will be. Israel decided that its security requires some sort of military action."

"So if it's not reached at this crisis — and the Arab states, particularly Iraq, continue with the development of missiles and chemical and nuclear weapons at the level of development we would tolerate before striking," he said.

"You cannot seal off the transfer of technology hermetically," Steinberg said, noting that many Arab countries now have missiles and chemical weapons.

He said reliance on deterrence would become increasingly dangerous and compared the atmosphere in the Middle East to US-Soviet confrontations in the early 1960s and the tension that preceded the 1967 Middle East war.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharqi proposed an agreement for nuclear and chemical disarmament in the Middle East, in an unusual interview with an Israeli newspaper published yesterday.

Al Sharqi's comments to the *Ha'aretz* daily in Paris came as three other Arab countries also issued disarmament calls from the Jordanian capital Amman.

(Continued on Page 10)

Mideast N-disarmament proposed

Pre-emptive strike?



Arafat (left) shakes hands with Carter outside Elysee Palace April 4. At centre is Carter's wife Rosalyn Carter. (Reuter wirephoto)

N-arms in Mideast danger to peace

Leaders to blame: Carter

PARIS, April 6. (Agencies): Former US president Jimmy Carter said on Wednesday after talks with PLO leader Yasser Arafat and French President Francois Mitterrand that Middle Eastern leaders were to blame for allowing the peace process to stall.

"The problem is among leaders who don't adequately represent the yearnings of their people," Carter told reporters on the steps of the Elysee Palace after the surprise meeting with Mitterrand and Arafat.

"President Mitterrand, chairman Arafat and I have had a discussion about the Middle East Peace process, how it might be promoted and might be rejuvenated. I think that peace is inevitable in the Middle East," the former US president said.

Arafat, standing alongside Carter at the French presidential palace, said according to an unconfirmed translation: "This meeting shows that the peace process is ... international and that the United States, France and the big powers play an essential role in this process."

Carter, speaking at a press conference in Oslo, said that the spread of nuclear and chemical weapons in the Middle East could be an

inducement to an Arab-Israeli peace. "It has been known that Israel has a formidable nuclear arsenal," and several Arab countries are developing chemical and biological weapons, he said.

Carter said the potentially devastating weapons could prove to be a deterrent in the troubled region in the same way as he believed it prevented war in Europe.

He did not comment directly on the attempt uncovered last by Iraq to smuggle devices for triggering atomic warheads, which was foiled in Britain.

"The people themselves want peace. The Israelis want peace. The Syrians want peace. The obstacle is the political leaders who don't have courage to take bold steps towards peace," he said.

Carter hailed Arafat, saying the Palestinian leader was doing everything possible to promote Middle East peace.

"Obviously chairman Arafat is one of those key leaders who's done everything he can in recent months to promote the peace process," said Carter.

(Continued on Page 10)

Penalty enhanced

Death by hanging

AN Indian male, 30-years of age had his sentence of life decreed by the Criminal Court enhanced to the ultimate penalty — death by hanging.

The Prosecution for the State in appealing the sentence, claimed that the accused had committed premeditated murder and this called for mandatory death sentence.

The Public Prosecutor told the court in his summons that the accused had been having sexual relations for the past two years with the victim. On the day of the incident, he accused visited the victim at a time when his entire family was out of the house and during an alteration stabbed the victim to death. Subsequently, in a bid designed to eradicate the murder, the accused set fire to the house.

The brother of the deceased on returning home, noticed the fire and called in the fire brigade, who after putting out the fire, managed to retrieve the partly decomposed body of the 15-year old youth.

In support of their request for calling on the Criminal Court to issue the death verdict, the Public Prosecutor cited the claim of the mother of the victim who testified that the accused had brought a knife with him when he visited the house and this constituted premeditated intentions of murder.

Nepal government sacked: King Birendra, responding to weeks of protests, dismissed the government Friday and announced broad democratic reforms and named a panel to rewrite the constitution.

Bhopal settlement review: The Supreme Court on Thursday began a review of last year's \$470 million Bhopal gas disaster settlement.

A five-judge panel, headed by Chief Justice Sabyasachi Mukherjee, will hear arguments until at least April 10 before deciding whether to overturn the deal.

Vietnam groups and the current government contend that the Feb. 15, 1989 settlement between the government of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and Union Carbide Corp. is inadequate. Union Carbide, a New Jersey-based multinational, says the settlement is fair and binding. (AP)

14 die in Haryana as Delhi extends rule; Troops kill six near India-Pakistan border

NEW DELHI, April 6. (AP): The Lower House of Parliament yesterday upheld an extension of the federal government's rule in the state of Punjab, where Sikh rebels have killed more than 540 people this year.

Earlier yesterday a bomb exploded in a bus in the town of Panipat, outside Punjab, killing 14 people. United News of India reported. There was no immediate identification who was responsible for the blast, but the bus began its run in Haryana state near the Punjab border.

The state-run bus, travelling to New

Delhi, had reached Panipat when

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bulgaria to dismantle barriers: Bulgaria is to begin dismantling some of the barriers along its border with Yugoslavia and abolish the restricted zone in the border Friday, the state BTA news agency reported.

The dismantling of "technical appliances" along the border with neighbouring Yugoslavia is to begin Friday, the news agency reported in a dispatch late Thursday. The decision to abolish the restricted area was made by decree of the communist government, BTA said. (AP)

Prosecutor bars publication: A state security court prosecutor barred the Istanbul daily *Sabah* from publishing a story Thursday about the attempted assassination two years ago of then premier Turgut Ozal.

Sabah printed "censored" over the empty space left for the story in the newspaper. (AP)

Drug pusher arrested: A 22-year-old woman who hid two packets of heroin in her vagina and another four under her bra, has been detained together with 16 others in a swoop by the anti-drug branch of the Malaysian police here last night.

A police spokesman who confirmed the arrest today said the woman is a suspected pusher. Each packet found on her weighed 2.6g. (Kuoa)

Nato probes spy case: Nato has started probing what may be one of its last cold war spy cases and officials said on Friday it may have done enormous damage to the Western alliance.

A 45-year-old cypher officer from Bonn's permanent mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) is being held in West Germany on suspicion of passing alliance secrets to East Germany over a period of more than 20 years. (Reuter)

Quake jolts Pacific isles: A strong earthquake rocked a cluster of Pacific islands on Friday, shaking buildings and generating 10-foot (three metre) waves, but no casualties were reported, officials said.

The tremor, measuring 7.4 on the open-ended Richter scale, struck Guam, Saipan and Tinian and nearby isles in the northern Marianas island chain in the Western Pacific shortly after sunrise, said Felix Sasamoto, an official of the civil defence office in Saipan. (Reuter)

ETA hit squad held: A Basque guerrilla squad blamed for 29 killings has been smashed in joint French and Spanish swoops, Spain's Interior Ministry said on Thursday.

Two Frenchmen and a Spaniard were detained in the French Basque country after Spanish police had arrested another Frenchman in a shootout and foiled a massive car-bomb attack in Seville, it added. (Reuter)

Blunt resigned as party head: Charles Blunt resigned as head of the National Party on Friday, becoming the third leader of a main political party to lose office since the March 24 federal election.

The Nationals were the junior partner in the opposition coalition now headed by Liberal Party leader John Hewson. He took over from Andrew Peacock as party leader on Wednesday. (AP)

Gunmen kill tycoon: Gunmen killed a logging tycoon and three of his employees in what may have been intended as revenge for a bomb attack in which a rival tycoon and 12 followers died, local newspapers reported Thursday.

More than 10 gunmen broke into Visuth Taetbiang's compound in the northern



Pegasus rocket

A Pegasus rocket was successfully launched into orbit on Thursday from the wing of a B-52 bomber, giving NASA and the private US space industry a new method of launching small payloads into space.

It was the first time a space-bound rocket had been launched from an airplane, and was proof of the viability of a commercial venture to develop a relatively inexpensive way of sending a spacecraft into orbit.

The winged Pegasus rocket was dropped from the wing of the NASA-owned B-52 43,000 feet (13,106 metres) over the California town of Monterey on the Pacific southwest.

Five seconds later, the rocket's engine ignited, and the 50-foot (15 metre) rocket soared into space. Its third stage then released a small navy communications satellite that will circle the globe in a polar orbit 320 nautical miles up.

Pictures show the B-52 bomber with the Pegasus airborne booster attached to its right wing take off. (Reuter wirephoto)

Pen for blind Wins invention prize

GENEVA, April 6, (AP): A drawing pen for the blind and partially blind, conceived by two Frenchmen, won the grand prize yesterday at the annual Geneva Invention Fair.

Gerard Pavaud, a teacher of handicapped children near the city of Nantes, and co-inventor Jack Sagot originally intended the pen as a tool for teaching blind youngsters computer science.

They ultimately developed it for general use by the blind in drawing, graphics and the production of documents in the Braille alphabet.

Key element of the pen is a special ink that forms a slight relief, or ridge, after drying for a few minutes. The raised patterns can easily be detected by people with a strong sense of touch, the inventors say.

The drawing paper can be beaten to heighten the relief, for example for children just starting to read blind script, Pavaud said.

Fair organisers claimed the invention is the biggest breakthrough in the field since the 1829 invention of Braille, which uses patterns of embossed dots to signify letters.

An international jury at the weeklong fair chose the pen as top entry among some 1,000 inventions from 25 countries.

province of Loei and killed his chauffeur and two bodyguards before dragging him out of bed and shooting him, the newspapers said. (AP)

Martial law to be lifted: Authorities have raised the possibility for completely lifting martial law in Burma before scheduled May 27 elections, a government spokesman told a weekly news conference Friday.

"Martial law has been withdrawn in many townships where the law and order situation improved. Martial law will be completely removed before the coming elections if the security conditions improve," said the spokesman, Kyaw San. (AP)

But the emotionally-charged crowd, some shouting "long live Benazir," surged forward. Police locked arms with the prime minister's bodyguard to keep the crowd away.

People in the crowd occasionally bumped Benazir as she said a brief prayer. A handful of women softly read verses from the Holy Quran and tossed rose petals on the grave.

Looking cold and wearing filthy clothes, a handful of prisoners unfurled a large black sign with white, hand-painted letters which extended their sympathies to the Scott family and ended with the words: "We are human."

At no time did anyone have any willful intention that we would develop into a riot situation," Thomas, 28, shouted through a makeshift megaphone.

At the height of the riot, rampaging inmates started fires in various parts of the prison, smashed fittings and hurled down slates from the roof.

As Benazir moved toward her father's caskets under a green, red and black canopy, the colours of the Pakistan People's Party, some 20 police with batons and automatic rifles slung over their shoulders tried to form a human barrier.

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People in the crowd occasionally bumped Benazir as she said a brief prayer. A handful of women softly read verses from the Holy Quran and tossed rose petals on the grave.

Looking cold and wearing filthy clothes, a handful of prisoners unfurled a large black sign with white, hand-painted letters which extended their sympathies to the Scott family and ended with the words: "We are human."

Myles still on top of pops

NEW YORK, April 6. (AP): "Black Velvet" kept All'anah Myles at the top of the pop singles record charts in the United States for the second week in a row Wednesday.

Two newcomers made their way into the top 10 list:—"Don't Want To Fall In Love" by Jane Child, up from 13th to 6th, and "Get Up Before the Night Is Over" by Techntronics, up from 11th to 9th.

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by *Cash Box* magazine, with last week's position in brackets:

1. (1) Black Velvet — All'anah Myles (Atlantic).
2. (2) Love Will Lead You Back — Taylor Dayne (Arista).
3. (3) I Wish It Would Rain — Phil Collins (Atlantic).
4. (6) I'll Be Your Everything — Tommy Page (Sire-Warner Brothers).
5. (7) All Around The World — Lisa Stansfield (Arista).
6. (13) Don't Want to Fall In Love — Jane Child (Warner Brothers).
7. (4) Escape — Janet Jackson (A & M).
8. (9) Keep It Together — Madonna (Sire-Warner Brothers).
9. (11) Get Up Before the Night Is Over — Techntronics (SBC).
10. (10) Here and Now — Luther Vandross (Epic).

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by *Cash Box* magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (3) Here In the Real World — Alan Jackson (Arista).
2. (5) Love On Arrival — Dan Seals (Capitol).
3. (1) Hard Rock Bottom — Randy Travis (Warner Brothers).
4. (7) Walkin', Talkin', Cryin' — Highway 101 (Warner Brothers).
5. (10) Help Me Hold On — Travis Tritt (Warner Brothers).
6. (2) Not Counting You — Garth Brooks (Capitol).
7. (11) I'm Over You — Keith Whitley (RCA).
8. (17) If Looks Could Kill — Rodney Crowell (Columbia).
9. (21) Walkin' Away — Clem Black (RCA).
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8. (17) Don't Miss the Partyline — Bizz Nizz (Coletempo).
9. (6) Blue Savannah — Erasure (Mute).
10. (14) Momma Gave Birth to The Soul Child — Queen Latifah and De La Soul (Gee Street).

Peggy Lee wins judgement against Disney

LOS ANGELES, April 5. (AP): Singer Peggy Lee won a summary judgement against Walt Disney Productions in a lawsuit in which she claimed Disney needed her approval before releasing the videocassette version of "Lady and the Tramp."

Lee provided voices for four characters and co-wrote songs with Sonny Burke for the 1955 animated classic.

Los Angeles superior court judge William Huss granted a request for the judgement establishing Disney's liability in the case, Daily Variety newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Neil Papiano, Lee's attorney, said the court will schedule a trial to determine damages. Lee is seeking \$12.5 million.

Disney has sold about 3.2 million cassettes of the movie at a wholesale value of \$45 million to \$50 million, Daily Variety said.

REQUIRED

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- 3) SCIENTIFIC AND LABORATORY INSTRUMENTS

APPLICANTS SHOULD:

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Surgeons offer lip lift

'Restore your smile'

CHICAGO, April 6. (Reuters): Plastic surgeons gave new techniques that offer the luscious lips adorning screen star Kim Basinger or the pleased countenance that graces the Mona Lisa.

To serve the cosmetically conscious, site-specific plastic surgeons can improve one's pout or restore one's smile without fatty injections or full-scale facelifts.

Among the innovations presented at the week-long convention of plastic surgeons here were textured silicon implants that produce softer enlarged breasts and tiny lasers that dissolve the spidery blood vessels that show up in sun-damaged skin.

The result, which costs between \$350 and \$650, raises the lips into a slight smile — "much like that of the fumed Mona Lisa," the surgeon said.

The new technique to thicken thin lips, developed by Reza Samian at the Baptist Medical Centre in

Jacksonville, Florida, involves making several V-shaped incisions in the lips inside the mouth and advancing some of the living and muscle to create fullness.

The cost of augmenting both lips costs between \$2,000 and \$3,000, and could be considered preferable to collagen or fat injections, which often wear off in six months to a year, Samian said.

To restore "lip lift" to the sometimes sad appearance of older people whose laugh-lines have sagged, Bernard Cohen of the University of Pittsburgh medical school removes small diamond-shaped flaps of skin.

The result, which costs between \$350 and \$650, raises the lips into a slight smile — "much like that of the fumed Mona Lisa," the surgeon said.

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Estefan better

Singer Gloria Estefan, whose back was broken when her tour bus was hit by a truck, is expected to be released from the hospital shortly.

Estefan has been at the Orthopaedic Institute Hospital for joint diseases, where doctors on March 22 implanted two steel rods in her back.

She will continue her rehabilitation from two fractured vertebrae at home, hospital spokeswoman Mary Costello said Monday.

Doctors said it would take the Cuban-born performer up to six months to fully recover.

The operation came one day after she was injured when her bus was struck by a tractor-trailer in Pennsylvania.

Estefan, 32, was nominated for a Grammy award this year for "Don't Wanna Lose You," a song from her solo album. (Reuter wirephoto)

N Y's No1 scofflaw

Most wanted motorist records \$171,746 fine

NEW YORK, April 6. (AP): Officials say Sylvia Matos parked her car wherever she wanted — in front of fire hydrants, at bus stops, beside expired parking meters. The result \$171,746 in fines and the dubious title of New York's No. 1 scofflaw.

Broken down, the numbers indicate Ms Matos collected an average 2.4 tickets a day — including holidays. Her efforts to avoid detection and collection included registering her car under 19 different addresses and 36 sets of license plates.

Unfortunately, the city doesn't expect to collect from Ms Matos, because she probably no longer lives in New York, said parking violations bureau director Tom McEaney.

He said Ms Matos received 2,800 tickets between Dec. 31, 1984, and Feb. 28, 1988. She is the parking bureau's most wanted motorist.

"She got tickets all over the place for all different things," said McEaney. "They run the gamut from double parking to expired meters to hydrants."

"You're always going to find somebody trying to beat the system. But she's our No. 1, no question," the director said. "We've tried to find out where she is at, but it's a complete mystery."

Ms Matos was \$22,000 ahead of the runner-up, Charles Rivera and his \$149,342 tab. The list of the top 10 scofflaws in the city was first reported on Thursday in the New York post.



Mis-prints

Stamp collector Patrick Sheller holds up a first-day cover of the 1990 Dutch 'Summer Series' stamp showing a missing 'C' for cent at his shop in Middelburg April 3. The misprinted 55 cent (25 cents US) is valued between \$125 and \$250 US. The Dutch Post Office issued 1,500 first-day covers, but it is unknown how many are mis-prints. (Reuter wirephoto)

Pleads to dismiss charges

I'm not going to jail, vows Leona

NEW YORK, April 6. (AP): A tearful but defiant Leona Helmsley has asked a judge to dismiss state charges of income tax evasion, vowing "I am not going to jail."

The 69-year-old US hotel queen was convicted last year of federal income tax fraud and sentenced to four years in prison, but is free on bond pending appeal.

She still faces state charges that she, her husband and two former employees falsified \$3 million worth of business and tax records from 1982 to 1986.

Mrs Helmsley sat quietly through the proceedings in Manhattan's state supreme court. But surrounded by reporters as she left the courthouse, she again protested her innocence.

"Enough is enough," she said in a hoarse voice, occasionally choked by tears. "I am not going to jail. I've done nothing wrong. ... My only crime is that I'm Leona Helmsley. For that I'm guilty."

Her attorney, Sandor Frankel, told Justice John A. K. Bradley that his client has already been "enormously punished" by the federal prosecution.

"The government should not be able to take multiple bites out of the human hide," he said.

America

Legacy of Lincoln will be fulfilled: US President George Bush predicted on Wednesday night that the time "was out of off" when a black will be elected president, but kidded potential challenger Jesse Jackson that he was out talking about him.

Addressing a group of black leaders, Bush spoke of Abraham Lincoln's signing of the emancipation proclamation that freed the American slaves and said "every president since has been challenged to be a part of the legacy of Lincoln."

The day will come — and it is not far off — when the legacy of Lincoln will finally be fulfilled at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue — when a black man or woman will sit in the oval office," Bush said, referring to the White House.

He spoke of visits to ghettos, where he has looked at the faces of children and wondered: "Will one of them be president? Is this the child who will fulfill the legacy?" (Reuter)

Hate crimes' bill approved: The House of Representatives approved on Wednesday and sent to the president a bill requiring the government to collect data on "hate crimes" motivated by race, religion, sexual orientation or ethnic roots.

"Now is the time for Congress to begin the fight against hate crimes," Congressman Charles Schlueter told the house when the measure was brought to the floor. The lawmakers voted 402-18 on Wednesday to send the Senate-passed measure to the president's desk for his signature.

President George Bush is expected to sign the measure, which would require the Justice Department to keep data on crimes related to victims' race, religion, sexual orientation or ethnic group. It is supported by a variety of civil rights, ethnic and police groups. (AP)

Prayer for peace criticized: The national council of churches is being criticized for a prayer for Middle Eastern peace that some religious leaders say is pro-Palestinian political propaganda.

The National Council of Christians and Jews, based in New York, said the seven-paragraph "Prayer for Jerusalem" appears "extremely provocative."

"It recalls the worst uses of the Christian holy week as a club against Jews," said conference official Elliott Wright. "Holy week" is the week Christians commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent arrest and execution.

Critics of the prayer say some references appear to accuse Israel of being a Palestinian and to blame the Jewish state for the violence of the Palestinian uprising.

"We see there is no peace and that people remain in agony and suffering," the prayer reads in part. "Free them from oppression, restore to them the right of life and to independence in their own land, just as other nations enjoy this right." (AP)

Lava destroys homes: Lava from Kilauea Volcano incinerated two homes in rural Hawaii island Wednesday, threatening at least four others and authorities said many more could be destroyed unless the flow stops.

Residents of 59 homes in Kalapana have been ordered to evacuate. Civil defense officials said all residents of the 125-home coastal community should be ready to pack their belongings within 72 hours.

The two wooden houses were the 77th and 78th homes destroyed during Kilauea's seven-year eruption. (AP)

Aftershock hit 4 years later: A moderate earthquake shone the San Diego area Wednesday, and scientists said it was an aftershock from a larger quake which struck the California region four years ago.

A spokesman for the California Institute of Technology said Wednesday's tremor measured 4.0 on the Richter Scale, and caused only minor damage and no injuries. Both temples were centered just off the San Diego coast. (Reuter)

Activist challenges US germ study: A Washington activist sought on Wednesday to shut down the US government's "biological warfare" programme, charging in a lawsuit that the Defense Department had inadequately studied the programme's impact on the environment.

The suit filed by a maverick environmentalist Jeremy Rifkin and his Foundation on Economic Trends asks a federal court to stop all activities of the department's Biological Defense Research Programme (BDRP), which conducts research on bacteria, viruses and toxins with potential military applications. (Reuter)

Executions may be injurious to health: California officials are worried that executions may be hazardous to your health.

State air-quality authorities want assurances from San Quentin prison, site of California's only gas chamber, that executions of inmates will not pollute the air.

The San Francisco bay area quality control board said it has asked prison officials for information on possible danger to the public from cyanide gas released through the chimney after an execution. (Reuter)

Clean air bill approved: A US House Committee cleared away the last major obstacle to approval of a clean air bill Tuesday with a compromise agreement on reducing acid rain.

The energy and commerce committee voted 344-4 to approve a complex allowance system aimed at helping midwest states ease the cost of reducing acid rain pollutants and soften regional opposition to the legislation.

The acid rain issue has dominated three days of closed-door bargaining among members of the committee, which is putting the finishing touches on the pollution control measure. (AP)

Bush to tour Latin America: President George Bush will visit at least five Latin American countries later this year, White House spokesman Marlio Fitzwater announced on Thursday.

Fitzwater said the trip will include Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Venezuela and additional countries may be added.

A source said the trip was expected to take place this autumn. (Reuter)

Europe

Bessmertnykh named envoy: First Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, a specialist in US-Soviet relations for 20 years, will be the next Soviet ambassador to the United States, the Washington Post reported on Thursday.

Bessmertnykh, currently in Washington accompanying Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, would succeed Yuri Dubinin who would become the envoy to France, the Post said, quoting unidentified official sources. Dubinin has been in Washington since mid-1986.

Yuri Vorontsov, who also holds the rank of first deputy foreign minister and is a veteran of the Washington embassy, would become Soviet ambassador to the United Nations, based in New York, the report said. (Reuter)

Briton's death: Police said on Thursday they



World record

The British Parachute Regiment free-fall team, the Red Devils, jump from a hot air balloon 6,000 feet over Bath April 5. The twelve-member team set a new world record for the number of parachutists jumping from a balloon. (Reuter wirephoto)



Anne attends premiere

Princess Anne receives a commemorative brooch from Leslie Cullen on her arrival at the Odeon Theatre April 5, to attend the premiere of "All Dogs Go To Heaven." (Reuter wirephoto)

Ford underwent surgery

Nixon suffering from minor heart problem

NEW YORK, April 6. (Reuter): Former US President Richard Nixon is suffering from a mild heart problem that has sapped his strength and he is being treated with medication, his cardiologist said on Wednesday.

The condition is not life threatening and the 77-year-old Nixon did not require hospitalisation, said Dr Jeffrey Borer, a cardiologist at New York hospital-concern medical centre in Manhattan.

"He's fine. He's suffering from a supraventricular heart rhythm disturbance that sapped his energy," Borer said, adding that treatment will last about two weeks.

"It's a simple problem that can be controlled easily with medication," Borer said.

The problem was discovered on Wednesday morning during a routine check-up to be added.

Meanwhile, former President Gerald R. Ford underwent surgery on Wednesday to replace his left knee with an artificial joint because of injuries dating back to his high school football days, and his other knee will also be replaced.

"He has had very bad arthritis in both of his knees dating to when he played football in the 1930s," Murphy said. "He's just gotten to the point where he was walking bone-on-bone. There was no cartilage."

Ford will have to wait his right knee replaced in October for similar injuries, Murphy said. The left knee had already been operated on three times, he said.

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Police defuse bomb in Bogota

BOGOTA, Colombia, April 6. (Agencies): Police defused a truck bomb containing more than a half-ton of dynamite that had been planted by drug traffickers hoping to destroy several blocks of wealthy Bogota neighbourhood.

Military armour and patrols poured out of army bases and into the streets minutes after the Thursday morning attempt.

Interior Minister Haracio Serpa, whose police said escaped being a victim by minutes, called an emergency meeting of the National Security Council. He is acting president while President Virgilio Barco is in Europe on a state visit.

Federal Sen. Federico Estrada, 63, who was kidnapped by drug traffickers last Tuesday in Medellin, was released unharmed Thursday in that northwestern Colombian city, home of Medellin's cocaine cartel.

In a communiqué, traffickers had threatened to murder him if police did not release four of their associates.

Police have denied detaining the four, and the reason for Estrada's being freed was not clear.

Gunmen working for the Medellin cartel killed another policeman Thursday in Medellin, bringing to 15 the number of officers killed there since Monday.

Police chief Col. Carlos Alberto Ojalora of Medellin says the cartel is paying \$4,300 for each officer killed.

Most of a surge of violence believed drug-related has been concentrated in Medellin.

On Wednesday, gunmen entered a tavern and began shooting indiscriminately. Two doctors, a university professor, an engineer and two waiters were killed and two people wounded.

Police found five shot bodies at a downtown soccer field and three bodies on the city outskirts of the city. Two bodies were found in a northern neighbourhood known as a centre for gangs of hired murderers. An off-duty soldier was shot dead.

Authorities have not established responsibility for the massacres, but similar killings have been carried out by rival gangs working for drug traffickers.

Police yesterday sent 600 reinforcements to the city of 2 million inhabitants to try to control the bloodshed.

The cartel said last week it would kill police officers and explode a bomb in a wealthy section of Bogota in retaliation for the government's continued repression of traffickers.

At 7:15 am (1215 GMT) Thursday, police officers patrolling a main avenue in northern Bogota saw two men hastily abandon a truck with its motor running.

In the back of the truck, police found about 1,100 pounds (500 kg) of dynamite hidden under a load of toilet paper and hand soap, a police lieutenant on the scene told the Associated Press.

■ **Haiti:** A Haitian soldier slipped away from a commandeer American airlines jet early on Thursday minutes before security forces boarded the plane to end a bizarre three-day stand-off at Port-Au-Prince airport.

Police said the soldier, identified as 20-year-old Pierre Gerald, had leaped off the aircraft and vanished into the darkness as security forces prepared to remove him.

■ **Peru:** The most talked-about development in the final weeks of the presidential campaign is the sudden popularity of Alberto Fujimori, a Japanese-Peruvian who two months ago barely registered a blip in public opinion polls.

Fujimori is a 51-year-old agricultural engineer and former rector of the National University of Agriculture. The son of Japanese immigrants, Fujimori is one of the 90,000 Japanese-Peruvians who make up the second-largest Japanese colony in Latin America.

■ The senate voted Thursday to authorise \$770 million in economic aid for Panama and Nicaragua but put off action on actually providing the money President Bush requested for the two Central American nations.



Street children round up

Rio authorities have begun rounding up homeless children and placing them in state shelters, a move that has outraged human rights advocates who are turning to the courts to win freedom for the youngsters.

An estimated six million children live in the streets of Brazil's main cities, including about 250,000 in Rio. They beg or shine shoes to make a living and often get drawn into the world of crime.

In an effort to help them, Libom Siqueira, a minors judge, has ordered that children up to the age of six be rounded up and placed in state institutions, such as the State Foundation of the Education of the Minor (Feeam). Those children who have parents are being sheltered with their mothers.

The order, issued on March 8 but carried out in the past 10 days, has met with outrage from human rights activists, the church and the press who argue that the programme amounts to incarceration of children.

Picture shows two abandoned children standing behind bars in a juvenile holding cell. (Reuter wirephoto)

It's a baby girl

Conceived to save daughter

LOS ANGELES, April 6. (AP): A baby girl was delivered to a couple who conceived the child to serve as a bone marrow donor for her leukaemia-stricken older sister, a relative said yesterday.

The chance that a bone marrow transplant will cure 13-year-old Anissa Ayala has been reported as between 70 and 80 percent. Tests showed her new sister's marrow was compatible.

Abe and May Ayala revealed eight weeks ago that they had conceived the baby, named Marissa Eve, as a last resort to save Anissa's life.

The Ayalas live in the Los Angeles suburb of Walnut with Anissa and a 19-year-old son, Airon. None of the four have compatible marrow.

The baby was born Tuesday night at Queen of the Valley Hospital in the Los Angeles suburb of West Covina, said the couple's niece, Lydia Sanchez.

"She's beautiful, she looks just like Anissa," Sanchez said. The Ayalas chose Eve as a middle name "because Eve means life," she added.

Anissa's leukaemia has remained stable, said Dr Patricia Konrad. She said he is likely to perform the transplantation in six months at the City of Hope National Medical Centre in the Los Angeles suburb of Duarco.

"We have no reason to do it ahead of time because Anissa is doing quite well right now," Konrad said.

Belgium Parliament restores King Baudouin as country's monarch

BRUSSELS, April 6. (AP): The legislature yesterday restored King Baudouin as the country's monarch at the end of a two-day suspension he requested to avoid having to sign a law legalising abortion in Belgium.

At a joint session of parliament's two chambers, 245 legislators voted to return the king to the throne.

There were no votes against the monarch, but 93 lawmakers abstained and 58 were absent. The two chambers contain 396 legislators.

A simple majority of 199 was required to

restore King Baudouin to power. But it came with some parliamentarians' sharp criticism of Baudouin's move and a renewed effort to curtail some powers of the monarch.

At the request of King Baudouin, a devout Catholic, the government suspended the monarch on Wednesday, then passed the abortion bill itself and called on the legislature to restore the king.

The manoeuvre let King Baudouin follow his conscience by not giving royal

asset to the abortion bill. Such asset turns hills into laws.

Before the vote, Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said his center-left government will seek changes in the constitution to prevent future refusals by the king, on moral grounds, to endorse legislation.

He did not elaborate in comments to the joint session of the 184-member senate and 212-member chamber of representatives.

However, the government may want the monarchy's powers, already largely

ceremonial, reduced even further, possibly by removing the need to give bills royal assent before they become law.

"To prevent a recurrence of similar problems in the future, the government ... intends to propose (to parliament) a structural change" in the constitution, Martens said.

Legal experts say the king cannot cast aside his constitutional role on moral grounds, only if he is physically or mentally unable to rule.

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Chinese exiles launch campaign

PARIS, April 6. (AP): Exiled leaders of China's pro-democracy movement said yesterday communist government was likely to succeed in repressing commemorations of last year's massacre in Beijing.

In hopes of intensifying international pressure on the government, the exiles disclosed details of a multi-faceted campaign to publicise their movement and broadcast pro-democracy radio programme into China.

They also confirmed that Chai Ling, a leader of the protests that were crushed last June, was in Paris after escaping from China with her husband.

Yan Jiagi, chairman of the Federation for Democracy in China, said at a news conference that Chai, 23, was in poor health after nine months in hiding and would not make public appearances until she had recovered. He said security reasons were not a factor in her decision to remain out of sight since her arrival in Paris this week.

Yan and his colleagues said a radio boat dispatched from France last month had passed through the Suez Canal en route to the waters off China and was expected to begin broadcasts by the end of the month.

They also announced plans for numerous cultural and academic events over the next several months aimed at building up worldwide interest in the anniversary of the massacre in Beijing.

They joined several French human rights activists last evening at the opening of an exhibition of photographs taken in Beijing as the pro-democracy movement mushroomed, then was crushed.

The Chinese embassy in Paris filed a formal protest, the French Foreign Ministry said without elaboration. The French ambassador to Beijing has been summoned 16 times since June by Chinese officials irritated by France hosting the exiles.

Several of the exiled activists are helping organise a four-day conference to begin in Berlin on April 20.

Chai was quoted yesterday, in an exclusive interview with a Taiwan newspaper, as saying the protest campaign last year might have succeeded if had come after the upheavals in Eastern Europe.

Tiananmen square reopened to the public today, but police remained on alert against attempts to honour the victims of the Tiananmen democracy movement crushed by military force last year.

The vast square was sealed off all day yesterday for the Qingming festival, a day when Chinese traditionally pay respects to their dead.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

PERFECTION is attained by slow degrees. It requires the hand of time — Voltaire, French writer (1694-1778).

Tireless traveller

Bush always on the move

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): George Bush is setting a blistering travel pace rarely seen in US history. The president thinks nothing of flying across the United States or even to other countries to slap a few backs and say a few words.

On one day recently he went to a political lunch in New York, a political dinner in San Francisco and stayed overnight in Los Angeles. This was his route to Palm Springs for talks with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.



Bush

This month, he is due to make a day trip to Bermuda to confer with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, another day trip to Key Largo, Florida, to see French President Francois Mitterrand, then the next day to Birmingham, Alabama, for an appearance and on to Islamorada, Florida, for some fishing.

Many of Bush's trips are designed to help fellow Republicans in November's US congressional elections. But he also hopes to visit Latin America and Australia in 1990 over and above the places he will go as the spirit moves him.

But this is only a small part of a rigorous White House travel schedule this year.

"I must tell you that I really do like to travel outside the Beltway," Bush, 65, told reporters recently, referring to the highway around Washington.

Since entering office 14 months ago, Bush has been to 16 foreign countries and 36 states — visiting some places more than once and travelling on average, one day in three.

This is however, slower than the pace he set in eight years as US vice-president. As Ronald Reagan's number two, Bush visited 74 countries and all 50 states, logging a total of two million km (131,125 miles) in the air.

Duties

One of his duties as Reagan's deputy was to attend funerals of foreign leaders — an obligation that once prompted Bush to remark facetiously: "You die — I fly."

"I think he believes that diplomacy is best accomplished on a personal basis and that politics is best handled in that way, too," said White House spokesman Stephen Hart.

Reagan, who disliked flying, generally made only one or two foreign trips a year and less than 20 domestic jaunts, many of these to his beloved California.

Critics have charged that Bush's travel is calculated to create a motion his administration lacks but Hart said it was part of the president's style of governing.

"He loves to get out and mingle with people. It helps expand his perspective both domestically and internationally," Hart said.

When a president goes on the road, the logistics and costs are staggering. While any plane carrying the US leader uses the radio call sign Air Force One, Bush usually flies aboard a modified, 47-passenger version of the Boeing-707 jet that costs \$5,287 an hour to operate.

A new Boeing-747 jet that seats 70 is scheduled to replace this plane on Sept 30.

Pays

An air force spokesman said the Republican Party pays for presidential travel and lodging on purely political trips. But most domestic trips combine politics and official business and costs are shared by the party and the taxpayers.

These expenses are minor compared to support costs, which run into at least six figures on virtually every presidential foray. For whenever a US leader travels, he is accompanied by a backup aircraft, a plane that transports his armoured limousines and security vans from place to place and another transport for helicopters.

In addition, the president is accompanied by a chartered press plane paid for by news organisations covering the trip.

Bush travelled to Colombia in February for a one-day drug summit, brushing aside aides' concerns about the danger of visiting that embattled country. He slept on his plane at Andrews Air Force Base the night before the trip so he could get an early start.

White House sources say Bush plans a return trip to Latin America in September, but will not say exactly where.

Nicaragua, where a pro-US government is scheduled to take power on April 25 after a decade of leftist Sandinista rule, is said to be among the possible stops, along with Argentina and Uruguay.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1509 — France declares war on Venice.
- 1652 — Dutch under Van Riebeeck found Cape Town in South Africa.
- 1789 — Selim III of Turkey accedes to throne.
- 1897 — Turkey declares war on Greece.
- 1934 — Mahatma Gandhi suspends civil disobedience campaign in India.
- 1936 — Cape Parliament passes native representation bill permitting natives to elect three Europeans to represent them in Union Parliament in South Africa.
- 1941 — British forces under Archibald Wavell evacuate Bengazi in Libya during World War II.
- 1945 — US aircraft carrier planes sink Japan's largest battleship, the Yamato, in World War II.
- 1953 — Dag Hammarskjold, Swedish diplomat, is elected secretary-general of the United Nations.
- 1961 — UN General Assembly condemns South Africa's policies in South-West Africa; Milovan Djilas, former number two man of Tito's regime in Yugoslavia, is arrested.
- 1966 — US hydrogen bomb lost from bomber is recovered in Mediterranean Sea off coast of Spain.
- 1974 — Major oil producing countries meeting in Geneva decide to set up fund for developing nations hard hit by higher petroleum prices.
- 1976 — China's deputy prime minister Deng Xiaoping is deposed and Hua Guofeng named prime minister.
- 1987 — President Ronald Reagan announces that American diplomats will not occupy the new embassy in Moscow until he is sure that it is secure from Soviet eavesdropping.
- 1988 — Iran and Iraq bomb each other's capitals and other towns, killing and wounding scores of people.
- 1989 — Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev concludes three-nation tour with lunch with Queen of England.

First multi-party elections since World War II

Slovenia goes to the polls

JUBLJANA, Yugoslavia, (Reuters): Yugoslavia's maverick republic of Slovenia on Sunday holds the country's first multi-party elections since World War II, ushering in a new era of democracy after 45 years of communist rule.

Seventeen political parties and groups of all shades will contest the elections in the northwestern republic that could oust Slovenia's communists, even though they have changed their name and split from the crumbling federal party.

Local officials in Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital, say a coalition government is likely because no party looks strong enough to win outright.

Majority

They say the ex-communists are unlikely to get a majority in Parliament but may buck the trend in Eastern Europe by putting up a respectable fight because they have long been pro-reform.

The polls could also change the face of Yugoslavia because factions in the main opposition groups advocate Slovenia's secession from the rest of this Balkan federation — the key question dominating the election campaign.

"It's impossible to predict how Yugoslavia will look at the end of this year," said one Western diplomat. "It may be a federation, a confederation or it may not exist at all."

Elections follow two weeks later in Croatia and some other republics are expected to hold elections in the next year.

In Slovenia, the 17 parties and groups will be running for 240 seats in the regional Parliament. Four candidates, including former regional Communist Party chief Milan Kucan, are contesting the post of president of the republic.

Opposition

The main opposition forces are the Democratic Opposition of Slovenia (Demos) anti-communist coalition and the Greens of Slovenia, an environmentalist party which led in a newspaper opinion poll this week.

The main left-wing groups are the ex-communists, who split from the Yugoslav Communist Party and renamed themselves the Democratic Reform Party (DRP) in February, and the Liberal Party — a former communist front organisation.

All are opposed by independent candidate Ivan Kramberger, a rich inventor who, dressed in black, often rides around Ljubljana on a bicycle with his pet monkey. He told his rivals on local television recently that they send him to sleep.

Independent groups have blossomed since Slovenia, which has strong Western European cultural and historical roots, became the first republic last year to allow opposition parties. Slovenia has long been at odds with more conservative republics by advocating considerably more radical democratic reforms, including press freedoms and



political and economic changes.

"I doubt whether any party will get an absolute majority in Slovenia so there will be some sort of coalition in Parliament," a Slovene political analyst said.

"It's not that people necessarily trust the new parties, most of whom have little or no political experience, but the same instinctive anti-communism that is present elsewhere in Eastern Europe also exists in Slovenia."

Mongolian reform unnerves China

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia, (AP): When Genghis Khan's Mongol warriors swept south in the 13th century, even China's Great Wall could not keep them out.

China again is on guard against Mongolia, but the new forces of democracy and nationalism bursting forth from here may prove just as hard to keep out.

"There are grounds for China to worry. Democracy is infectious," said one pro-democracy activist, Lamjat, who like most Mongolians uses one name.

He is a leader of the Social Democratic Movement, one off several new opposition groups that have forced Mongolia's ruling communists to initiate political reforms like their Soviet allies. Recently, Mongolia's leaders promised free elections.

Chinese leaders, who used tanks and guns to put down their own democracy movement last June, are already worried about the weakening or fall of communist parties in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Mongolia's protests have brought the trend to China's border, with a potentially receptive audience among the 3.5 million ethnic Mongols in

Chinese Inner Mongolia.

Already they are being exposed to a potent mix of democratic ideas and Mongol pride via newspapers, radio broadcasts and even pop music from Mongolia.

One of Mongolia's biggest hits is a nationalist paean to the "Great Emperor, Lord Genghis, our ancestor," which mourns, "We (Mongolians) have become pitiable. Forgive us."

Mongolian sources who travel frequently to Inner Mongolia said Beijing clearly is worried. They said China has sharply cut travel by its citizens to Mongolia, and has stepped up surveillance of its Mongol minority.

At stake is stability not only in Inner Mongolia but in other border regions populated by traditionally more restive minorities — the Tibetans and Uygurs.

"Unrest is impossible," said a man with relatives in Inner Mongolia, noting that Chinese now outnumber Mongols there.

But be and other cross-border travellers said China's Mongols are far from assimilated, although many dress like Chinese and speak Chinese.

"They always look to outer Mongolia," said an

intellectual. "A Mongol is always a Mongol."

Reuniting the two Mongolias is not part of the public programme of the new opposition groups in Ulan Bator, despite the new nationalist climate.

"In every Mongolian exists such a dream," said one activist. "But to talk about it openly is dangerous."

For centuries the only relationship between Mongolia and China was that of ruler and ruled. Genghis Khan's successors ruled China for a century; China later invaded Mongolia. But the nomadic Mongols were always more resistant to China's Confucian influence than other East Asian peoples.

They turned to the Soviet Union for help in gaining independence under a communist government in 1921. Inner Mongolia, with a heavier Chinese presence, stayed under Beijing.

After China's communist revolution in 1949, Ulan Bator and Beijing briefly became friends, but when the Soviet Union split with China in the early 1960s, Mongolia did too. As late as 1983, Mongolia ordered 2,000 ethnic Chinese living in Ulan Bator to work on state farms or go back to their motherland. Most left, with China protesting the expulsions.

Letters to the editor

Approb seminar

STR: This is in response to the letter published in your newspaper of 3/4/90 criticising the bolding of the seminar by Approb, Jan, an avid reader of your newspaper in Dubai and a frequent visitor to Kuwait. I follow most of the events and read with explicit interest the issues raised in the columns of your letters to the editor.

The author of "Evening of Despair", I think, is a propagator of emotional direct propaganda. He has tried to describe the object in such terms as to arouse towards it the emotions desired by propagandists. There are associate dangers with the kind of propagandist Dr Haider Mehdhi has resorted to. In the first place, it is just as easily used in a bad cause as in a good one, but the kind of emotions it is trying to arouse cannot but be an obstacle to sensible behaviour. His propaganda tends to close the minds to arguments too. There is absolutely no doubt that certain amount of uncompensated propaganda is necessary for the minimum of social cohesion, but the existence of so-called class of mediocrites like the author of the letter who assume the mantle of pseudo-intellectual by complex usage of technical jargon has to be countered.

Most of his letters in the last 2-3 months have been critical of the establishments like his assault on the cause of Afzal Noor's proposal, the personality cult of Benazir and failure of Pakistani policies. When mediocrites like him replace serious thinkers as the most conspicuous trend-setters and political guides, these figures make a good glitzy sort of media campaign, but marks a decline in the context of intellectual process.

Criticism
His criticism of Approb is a blatant and glaring example of quantitative and qualitative decline of his self-proclaimed role as an intellectual. Criticism for the sake of criticism has become the habit of the author's approach. Approb will suffer intense criticism which is a positive sign. Lack of such response would mean disqualification of Approb objectives and non-acceptance of their goals. Intellectual thoughts, if taken seriously, are followed by severe criticism and suffering and this phenomena reflects the grace and credit of the intellectual depth of Approb.

I attended the same seminar and came all the way from Dubai and found it to be a very interesting and useful exercise in terms of maturity of ideas and diversity in approach. I fail to understand that Dr Mehdhi, who was sharing the same dinner table with me, if was so upset with the intellectual quality of the seminar stayed there for more than five hours listening to what he called "meaningless form of speeches". If an intellectual does not get his feedback from a crowd that is flawed in ideas, concepts and intellectual hospitality leaves at the first opportunity, but I think Dr Mehdhi's

priorities, if he was going through that intellectual torture for five hours, were limited to enjoying the well-prepared cuisine by the expert chefs.

The chief guest himself requested the organisers that all the papers and speeches made in the seminar should be sent to him for printing in Pakistan. He repeatedly quoted that the welcome he had received in Kuwait was far beyond his expectations. Approb has done a commendable job by organising such an event on a mega scale.

The critics of Approb are men who are not doers. I think Approb would not have been criticised had the association not grown greater than its critics. If anyone wants to beat a dog he can easily find a stick; the approach unfortunately taken by Dr Mehdhi is that of finding a stick. This criticism is in itself an unqualified recognition of achievement for Approb. If a scholarly view of opinions is blind opposition like that of the author's, then I would better consign his ideas to garbage and align myself with the ideals of Approb where there is hope instead of despair, construction instead of self-pity. What is questionable is that in the entire gist of his letter, he has not found a single occasion where merit may be due to organisers at least for their hospitality in inviting all of us to such an occasion.

Calibre

I should admit one thing, the seminar was a local affair and there is no doubt that the calibre of the speakers could not be matched with the invited guests but, then again, it was not the purpose of the local participants to match the competence of the chief guest. The inferiority of our age in such respect is an inevitable result of the fact that society is centralised and organised to such a degree that individual initiative is reduced to minimum. The flourishing of values in smaller Pakistani communities under organisations like Approb is a matter of pride. It leads to intellectual rivalry but without contempt for the initiative which is sincere and respectable. Without such local individual initiatives in local communities, life would increasingly become drab and monotonous.

I think Approb has worthy ambitions and if they wish to be recognised as authorities on any subject, they have to be pitted against people of higher calibre. It is then they will be aware of their shortcomings and, having come to that conclusion, will embark on an exercise to improve and sharpen their skills. The creative impulses inspired by such initiatives should remain spontaneous. Approb should ardently desire the end and put its pride into overcoming obstacles, as the Red Indians say, "There's glory in it."

I hope that those of us who are to be judges should be performers, instead of washing their dirty linen in open, why can't such self-assumed intellectuals be constructive for once and doers. To be a performer or a doer it needs months of preparation, hard work, efforts, means and benevolence. The private initiative

of Approb is a mixture of hard work and benevolence, we Pakistanis in unison support their actions.

Approb is a name of positive thinking and is earning good name for Pakistan at least by organising meetings for children on Pakistan Movement and essay competition — all educational and academic exercises.

I wish Approb all the success and announce my intention to form a Chapter of Approb in Dubai. Being a professional and businessman, I hope Approb (Kuwait Chapter) will accord all necessary help.

Approb is a progressive voice against reactionaries. Therefore, should be prepared for a frontal assault from the technicians who for the sake of their name and publicity would take Approb to task and put it on the receiving end.

Ajazuddin Shaikh (M.D.), SAS Hotel, Room 215, Kuwait.

Lithuanian story

SIR: In today's (April 3) Arab Times, on page 5 a bold headline read: "Lithuania rejects Kremlin demands." After that the news started as follows: "Occupied Jerusalem, April 2, (Reuters): Lithuania President

We are surprised to note how the news comes from occupied Jerusalem. We are fully confident that instead of writing the name of the capital of Lithuania state the Arab Times wrongly mentioned occupied Jerusalem.

I remember on another occasion when the Arab Times used the photo of Numeir, the ousted president of Sudan and the photo caption read: "Israel President Peres."

These sort of mistakes come to my notice from time to time.

We urge the Arab Times authorities to be more careful about all these incidents as it hampers the reputation of the daily.

Ziadun Ahmad, Safat.

Editor's note: As mentioned in the 2nd paragraph of the story, the Lithuanian President was talking to Israel Radio by telephone. The story was therefore filed from occupied Jerusalem.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Soviet Baltics cautious on secession

MOSCOW, (Reuters): The new pro-independence leaders of Estonia and Latvia appear determined to tread a careful path out of the Soviet Union, fearing that the hardline

Lithuania rejects Gorby plea

Reiterates offer to negotiate terms on independence

MOSCOW, April 6, (AP): Lithuania's legislature has rejected President Mikhail Gorbachev's demand to rescind its declaration of independence, and has again offered to negotiate terms surrounding its independence.

The offers were sent to Gorbachev yesterday in a letter from Lithuania's supreme council legislature.

"We realize that Lithuania's determination to rejoin the family of independent states creates concerns for the Soviet Union and for you personally, esteemed president," the

"You also know that Lithuania proposes and intends to maintain the existing economic, cultural and humanitarian ties with the USSR," the letter said.

The letter was sent as about 50 armed Soviet soldiers dressed as policemen invaded the Lithuanian prosecutor's offices, expelled employees and occupied the building, according to witnesses and a spokesman for the republic's Parliament.

The Soviet military has also occupied four communist party buildings, the central newspaper plant, rounded up Lithuanian deserters from the Soviet armed forces and sent military convoys through the republic's capital of Vilnius, since the declaration of independence.

On Thursday afternoon, men armed with automatic weapons entered the prosecutor's office, site of a previous Soviet attempt to seize authority from officials appointed by the new Lithuanian government.

The men "fully occupied the building, and there are six or eight paratroopers on each floor dressed as policemen," Henrika Poci, secretary to Lithuania's chief prosecutor, said in a telephone interview.

A communiqué from the Lithuanian supreme council legislature quoted Kazimieras Motieka, its deputy chairman, as saying soldiers were "dressed in police uniforms and carried boxes of ammunition with them into the building."

The chief prosecutor is the republic's top law-enforcement authority. A confrontation arose at the same office last week when Moscow officials tried to remove Arturas Paulauskas, the chief prosecutor appointed by the Lithuanians, and install their own.

Amid mixed signals between Vilnius and Moscow, recent statements indicate movement toward a common ground, including a possible Lithuanian referendum on independence, which could bring the republic to compliance with a new law on secession.

Meanwhile, Estoia leaders indicated they would not back down on their demands for independence despite a recent warning from Gorbachev.

Latvia also appeared headed toward declaring independence. Its Communist Party congress was expected to split into at least two factions. Similar Communist Party splits into pro-Moscow and pro-independence factions have already occurred in Lithuania and Estonia and worked to favor of secessionist movements.

Estonian leaders decided yesterday not to back down from their demands for independence in the face of Gorbachev's wrath, sources said.

A meeting of the presidium of the Estonian Supreme Soviet was held behind closed doors and officials gave no details of their talks.

However, a source with access to a letter to Gorbachev drafted by the presidium said it demanded the Soviet leader begin negotiations on independence and make known his stand on the question of secession.

Soviet clown seeks asylum

RENO, Nevada, April 6, (AP): A clown from the Moscow circus who disappeared after the troupe ended a two-month engagement in Reno has finally expressed his wish to defect, his attorney says.

"He's applying for political asylum because he fears reprisals from expressing his political views," attorney Michael Ross said yesterday in a telephone interview.

"That's the basic reason he wants to live in America," he said, without elaborating on the particular political views of the performer, Sergei Ishanov, 28.

Ishanov is being sequestered pending approval of his application for political asylum, according to Ross who would not reveal where the application would be filed or his client's current location.

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A Lithuanian woman clinches her fist as she demonstrates opposite the general prosecutor's office in Vilnius. (Reuter wirephoto)

Talks on Germany, Mideast productive

WASHINGTON, April 6, (AP): Soviet concessions on Germany and the Middle East set the stage for US President George Bush to take up the tense situation in Lithuania with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze today.

A summit agenda geared to arms control accords and US help for the sickly Soviet economy also were up for discussion in Shevardnadze's third and final day of talks here.

Bush yesterday scheduled his second summit with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for May 30 to June 3. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the President would express his concerns about Lithuania "carefully and directly" to the Soviet leader.

Gennady Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, indicated to reporters that Secretary of State James Baker already had raised US concerns about the use of Soviet force to stop Lithuania's independence campaign.

Shevardnadze was likely to fear more in a call at the White House today. Shevardnadze also was meeting with Baker again to clear away obstacles to a trio of arms control accords and set the stage for the Washington summit.

The outlook brightened yesterday at the State Department as the two sides broke new ground on Germany and the Middle East.

Accepting the principle of unifying East and West Germany, the Soviets edged away from their demand that the merged country be neutralized, US and Soviet officials said.

In another potential breakthrough, the Soviets said they would consider restoring diplomatic relations with Israel and permitting the direct flight of Jewish emigres to Tel Aviv in return for assurances the refugees would not be settled on the West Bank and in occupied east Jerusalem, a senior US official said.

But the American initiative was undertaken without consulting Israel and it is not clear any Israeli government would accept restrictions on Jews living in the country's capital or on the West Bank.

Fitzwater said several major agreements could emerge at the summit, including a long-sought Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty to limit long-range nuclear weapons.

But Bush said merely that the summit would provide "time for a lot of dialogue and a lot of discussion."

Officials acknowledged that in the weeks remaining until May 30 it will be difficult to forge agreements across the board of US-Soviet relations.

But a group of US and Soviet regional experts working at the direction of Baker and Shevardnadze, achieved surprising progress on Germany, the Middle East and the wars in Angola and Afghanistan.

On Angola and Afghanistan, US officials said the Soviets showed an interest in elections as a way of ending wars in those countries between forces backed by the two superpowers.

The Bush-Gorbachev meeting had been expected to be held in late June, but the earlier date announced yesterday shortened the time left to negotiate a deal.

The Soviets must enact a law guaranteeing a right to emigrate and negotiators must complete a new trade agreement for Moscow to qualify for US trade concessions. US officials said this still could be done by the time Gorbachev comes to Washington.

letter said, while only referring to Lithuania as a sovereign state. "Lithuania, as before, is prepared for honest dialogue, but this should not be accompanied by the willful actions of your armed forces. Therefore, we propose to hold soon initial bilateral consultations with the goal of clarifying the positions of both sides on the questions that interest them," it said.

The letter offered to discuss Lithuania's independence in terms of international law and the Soviet constitution.

Bonn pressing ahead

German monetary union

BONN, April 6, (AP): West Germany said yesterday it was pressing ahead on schedule with its plans for replacing East Germany's currency by summer amid a new outbreak of European concern surrounding the planned monetary union.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel told reporters that government ministers are examining a 50-page draft proposal for replacing East Germany's nearly worthless currency with the mighty West German mark.

Waigel also confirmed newspaper reports that under the proposed contract, East Germany would hand over control of monetary policy to West Germany's Central Bank.

"Naturally, sovereignty over monetary policy is this currency union will be completely with the Bundesbank," Waigel said.

He also reiterated that West Germany would like basic agreement with East Germany on the contract by next month, with the actual implementation of currency union sometime in the summer.

Currency union is a crucial element in plans to rebuild East Germany's battered economy, and in West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's blueprint for a speedy unification of the two German states.

Waigel said Bonn wants to offer a finished proposal to East Germany immediately after Easter, but that hinges on when a new East German democratic government will be formed. Negotiations are currently under way in East Berlin on forming a coalition government, following East Germany's first free elections on March 18.

"We expect there will be negotiations (with East Germany) after Easter, at the latest," Waigel told reporters.

Waigel reiterated that West Germany would like to have the currency union in place by summer.



De Maiziere (right) talks to Doctor Sabine Bergmann-Pohl. (Reuter wirephoto)

Lothar de Maiziere to form the first non-communist government after 40 years of Stalinist rule.

At the first session of the new Volkskammer, another member of De Maiziere's election-winning Christian Democrats (CDU), Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, was chosen by the 400-member Parliament to be its first woman speaker.

"We are witnesses to a moment of great historical significance," said Bergmann-Pohl after her election as Volkskammer president and effectively interim head of state.

"We have been entrusted with the delicate flower of democracy which survived 50 winters," she said.

De Maiziere, whose party won more than 40 percent of the vote in the March 18 election, will formally replace communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow when the CDU's coalition cabinet is approved by parliament, probably next Thursday.

Army colonel testifies against Ceausescu kin, tells of carnage during protests

BUCHAREST, April 6, (Reuter): An army colonel told a court yesterday that demonstrators were shot and dragged down dark alleys by men in civilian clothes during the December uprising against Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

The testimony of Army Colonel Dorinel Amariuca at the trial of Nicolae Andruita Ceausescu, the executed leader's little-known younger brother, was the first to confirm allegations of grisly violence levelled against him.

Witnesses testified earlier that Ceausescu threatened Amariuca at gunpoint to order an assault on the protesters.

"You have two minutes to launch the attack, otherwise I'll arrest you," Amariuca quoted an

charge of cadets from the Securitate Secret Police Training School, as alleged to have shot seven people and ordered his men to fire on anti-government protesters.

Ceausescu, who faces life imprisonment if convicted, has denied these and several other charges levelled against him.

Witnesses testified earlier that Ceausescu threatened Amariuca at gunpoint to order an assault on the protesters.

"You have two minutes to launch the attack, otherwise I'll arrest you," Amariuca quoted an

alleged Ceausescu as telling him. He said his unit fired only warning shots in the air.

A dozen earlier witnesses, mostly officers and cadets from the Securitate Training School, denied seeing demonstrators being arrested or gunned down in the area.

"I saw people who seemed lifeless," Amariuca told the three-judge military court.

"I didn't know if they were dead or just wounded but they were dragged in front of my eyes by the scruff of their necks like sacks of potatoes."

Waigel reiterated that West Germany would like to have the currency union in place by summer.

Asked by the judge if he saw any arrests, he replied: "Not in any civilised sense of the word. I just saw people being badly molested, even the injured. They were beaten up with sticks and dragged away by people in civilian clothes carrying sticks and by militia."

King Michael of Romania will visit his country next week for the first time since 1947, when the communists forced him to abdicate the throne and go into exile, his personal secretary said yesterday. "King Michael is, of course, very happy that he can now again visit his country," the secretary said.

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6

Kuwait to participate in international drug conference

Sheikh Salem already in London

LONDON, April 6 (Kuna): Kuwait's Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah arrived here yesterday heading a delegation to attend an international conference on combating drug trafficking due to open next week.

On arrival, Sheikh Salem was received by a number of British officials and Kuwait's Ambassador in London Ghazi Al Rayes.

The conference which is due to open Monday is being co-sponsored by the British government and the United Nations.

About 140 countries are expected to take part in the conference as well as some world leaders and the UN Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar.

Sheikh Salem will deliver a speech at the conference focussing on the Kuwaiti's experience in fighting narcotics and the prospects of international co-operation in that field.

Before his departure, Sheikh Salem pointed out to Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) the importance of the three-day conference which will be attended by a number of heads of state and ministers of interior as well as the secretary general of the United Nations Javier Perez De Cuellar.

The Kuwaiti minister pointed out that Kuwait will be presenting a working paper consisting of three main points as well as legislative conditions and means of combatting narcotics, currency laundering and the importance of co-operation in buying products of countries that resort to planting drugs by providing them with farm equipment that

will enable them to cultivate their land to grow food products.

Sheikh Salem said that he will be meeting with Arab ministers of interior, who are participating in the conference, in order to discuss and agree with them on a unified Arab stance to be taken at the conference.

The minister of interior was seen off at the airport by the undersecretary of the ministry of interior, the governors of Hawalli and Farwaniyah and top officials in the ministry.

Sheikh Salem is accompanied by a specialised delegation including several experts in the drug field and senior officials at the interior ministry. The conference is to begin on April 9 and will be inaugurated by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

GCC economies enter new era

Positive trends

THE secretary-general of the GCC Chambers of Commerce and Industry Union Mohammad Abdullah Al Mulla has said that the economies of the Gulf are expected to enter a new stage of balanced development into the decade of the nineties. This takes added significance following the entrenchment of world and regional debts embodied in the amelioration of relations between Western and Eastern blocs, and the increasing attention by the industrial countries to put an end to Third World debts.

He told *Al Seyasah* that the Arab Gulf states have witnessed the emergence of a number of positive indications that firmly established the factors of reassurance and optimism at the regional level. The cessation of Iraq-Iran war, also led to the consolidation of economic stability in the region.

Other positive indications were the repatriation of part of the Gulf capitals invested abroad, while the oil prices continually grow better due to the growing demand for oil by the countries of Eastern European bloc and the agreement concluded by Opec to define the production ceiling at a specific level, Mulla said.

He pointed out that the Gulf budgets in 1989 were characterised by increased spending, reflecting the Gulf government's prime concern for promoting the continuity of the social and economic development process, while keeping a good level of services in constant supply to citizens.

Growth

He said that the steady growth of the non-oil production sectors and the increasing exports to the world markets led to the retreat in dependence on oil as the prime source of national income. This was accompanied by the remarkable improvement of the performance of certain main economic sectors during the 1989, after the deterioration witnessed in some commercial and re-exporting sectors.

He also said that the increasing exports of consumer commodities and rise in the prices of real estates and investment lands was conducive to the price rise of certain Gulf shares due to the closing of subscription and the establishment of financial markets in Bahrain, Oman, the UAE and Qatar.

The forthcoming stage requires an objective review of the challenges and achievements of the outgoing stage. This mainly needs the involvement of the private sector in a high-key influential role in the different economic activities, in compliance with recommendations adopted to this effect in different development schemes and programmes, the official said.

He stressed the need for the Gulf private sector to side-step the negative reflections of the past period of low economic activity, most commonly the preference towards liquid assets to fixed ones, which was responsible to abstain from entering into fixed investment enterprises.

Administration

He highlighted the importance of developing the structural components of the administrative framework at the Gulf private sector establishments through the introduction of modern administrative techniques to sort out existing inconveniences in the defiance and marketing sectors.

He added that it is very important to base investment decision in various economic projects on carefully-prepared feasibility studies defining the size of the project, the related objectives, available counter-competition and marketing chances, urging the banking sector to responsibly shoulder its duty in replenishing the projected starting in government investment through provision of the long-term development financing services to the private sector.

He also laid heavy stress on the need to find better marketing avenues for national products and seek the support and aid of all government in the Gulf to provide more credit facilities and investment opportunities to the productive and service sector. This should be based on long-term realistic outlook for the future of economic development in the region, Mulla said.

Former policeman jailed

A FORMER traffic policeman was sentenced to 28 months' imprisonment for faking his police ID. The court was told that the accused Ahmad, was sacked from his job and being a non-Kuwaiti his driving license was withdrawn from him in December 1985. However, Ahmad, 4 years later, went to the Traffic Department claiming he lost his driving license and submitted a forged police ID.

Stricter control on food shops

THE director of Health Affairs at Kuwait Municipality Saeed Al Muhamma has said that the Foods Department has tightened control over all food-selling shops and catering companies during Ramadan. Food consumer commodities which are in high demand during this month and which are imported regularly are also checked.

He said that the municipality's competent inspection officers will carry out regular inspection visits to restaurants and food-selling shops in the pre-and-post-Iftar periods to oversee the process of food preparation and ensure that the municipality's code on food hygiene is observed.

He told local daily, that the department of slaughterhouses has taken intensive technical and administrative arrangements to cope with the expected work pressure during the holy month of Ramadan, during which the daily output of these facilities doubles and the working hours change accordingly.

Authority

He said in the meantime wider authority is being granted to Food Controls at the department to facilitate the transactions of clients, cut down on obstructive formalities and sort out existing functional overlapping.

He pointed out that the Foods and Shop-Licensing Department is consistently co-ordinating with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training to hold specialised training courses for central market inspectors and inspectors of imported foods.

He said that there is a special control programme whereby all food-selling shops will be surveyed and collected information will be entered into computers.

Action Line

MY sister's husband recently died in Kuwait. She has been living here for the last 15 years on a family visa. I would like to know if my sister can stay here on my sponsorship. Will the Interior Ministry transfer the residence from her husband's name to my name? My entire family is here and if she goes back, there is no one in India to look after her. Kindly advise.

Gulam Yusuf. ON compassionate grounds, the Department of Immigration might consider your request and transfer your sister's sponsorship from her husband's to your name. We advise you to submit the death certificate along with an application to transfer the visa. The officials will tell you what documents are required and if you can present them, the transfer of dependency might be a possibility. However, we suggest you go to the Immigration Department; its officials are in a better position to tell you whether it can be done or not.

I CAME in Kuwait in 1978 on visa No. 20. I changed to residence No. 18 in 1983. Again, I changed my residence on Feb 23, 1990. The acceptance or rejection of any application is subject to the discretion of the immigration officials. My visa is the same — No. 20. Please let me know if I can change or not.

N.A. Shafi. YOUR query is not clear. At one point you say you changed your visa from No. 20 to No. 18; in another sentence you say the visa is the same. Anyway, the 10-year exemption for transfer of residence applies to people holding visa No. 18. If you changed to No. 18 visa in 1983, you have not yet completed ten years in Kuwait and are not eligible to seek a transfer of residence without completing at least three years with the present employer.

If you are trying to change from No. 20 to No. 18 visa, you'll have to find a sponsor who'll give No. 18 visa. Then, you must cancel your present Visa No. 20, leave the country and re-enter on the fresh work permit issued to you.

If you have been holding No. 20 visa since 1978 and did not change it to No. 18, any transfer of residence depends on whether or not your previous sponsor agrees to let you work for the new employer; if he does, then he will give you a release paper, which will be submitted by the new employer to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. If the ministry accepts the transfer of residence application, then the visa can be transferred.

I HAVE been in Kuwait for more than 10 years. I came here on visa No. 20 and in 1983, I changed it to visa No. 18. I want to know if I can change my job and residence before completing three years.

N.A.S.

THE duration of 10 years stay is taken into consideration from the date of holding visa no. 18. As you changed your visa from no. 20 to no. 18 in 1983, you have not yet completed ten years continuous stay. Therefore, you don't have the right to seek a transfer of residence before completing three years service with the present employer.

I FOLLOW your articles with great interest and look forward to each of them.

Labour laws are enacted to define the rights and obligations of both employer and employee.

One of the first articles of most labour laws is to ensure that a copy of the laws be made available to the employee by the employer. Is there such a requirement in the Kuwait Labour Law?

Most of the queries seem not for an interpretation of the law regarding a specific instance but rather for a quote from the statutes.

Is there an English language translation of the laws available? If so, where can it be purchased and what is the cost?

V.G. Emery. THERE is no provision in the labour law making it compulsory for an employer to provide a copy of the law to the employee. Yes, you are right. Most queries are for statutes from the law and do not seek an interpretation of the law. The labour law itself is comprehensive and favours the employees in most instances. However, sometimes its implementation by certain employers can be questioned.

There is no official translation of the labour law; however, certified translators undertake the job for a fee, which depends on many factors. Translated copies in book form are available in bookshops around Kuwait. You might be able to get a copy from the Umm Al Maradem translators; their telephone number is 2466414; 2429522.

If you have a problem drop in a line to Action Line, *Arab Times*, P.O. Box 2270, 13023, Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions to us on 4847495.

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Functional overlapping proposals approved

THE assistant undersecretary of Civil Service Commission for development of administration Dr Naser Al Sania has said that the Council of Ministers approved proposals of the work team that was set up to sort out functions between the National Housing Authority and the Savings and Credit Bank.

He added that these proposals aim at unifying the authority that grants loans for building or buying houses and for avoiding duplication of formalities between the authority and the bank.

According to these proposals the authority and bank will do their best to relinquish their condition on citizens to bring identity cards, certificates of nationality, marriage contracts, and letters from Central Statistics Department.

These will be replaced by the civil number to get the required information from the Public Authority for Civil Information (Paci) via the computer terminals at the bank and authority which are connected with Paci's computer.

Additionally, the authority and the bank will send letters to other external authorities if they desire any additional information about the applicants.

The authority will also issue the decision to allocate a land allotment and a loan for the citizen while the bank grants the loan. He added that the authority and bank began carrying out these proposals that were approved by the government.

Procedures

On the other hand, the Kuwait Municipality and Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources reached an agreement to transfer the supervision and organisation of slaughterhouses that are now under administration of the municipality to the authority before July 1991.

They also agreed on several procedures to sort out the functions between them and the report of the team was approved by the chairman of the authority Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij Al Sabah, acting director-general of municipality Sheikh Sabah Al Jaber Al Ali and the assistant undersecretary of Civil Service Commission for the development of administration Dr Naser Al Sania.

The agreement between the two parties indicates that the municipality will allocate suitable places for marketing local agricultural products in co-operation with the authority. The authority will also specify health and technical conditions for farms and projects of animal production beside supervising these projects.

Municipality will also co-operate with the authority before issuing licences to place advertisements in the sites specialised for afforestation or landscaping.

3,000 tons of waste daily

VITREOUS domestic wastes in Kuwait contribute 5.2 percent of the country's total wastes which were estimated at 3,000 tons daily. The total cost for disposing these wastes annually is around KDR6,000 according to a study prepared by the Control Laboratory of industrial remains affiliated to the Environment Protection Department at the Ministry of Public Health.

Soft drink bottles discarded constitute 94 per cent of the vitreous wastes and about 1.15 per cent of these wastes are subject to the recycling process and the balance are buried. However, the study added that the recycling plant could recycle at least 60 per cent of the total waste.



Amiri medals

Director of the General Traffic Department, Brig. Abdul Hameed Al Hajji distributed medals presented by HH the Amir to 17 traffic police officers for their excellent services. Hajji called upon the honoured officers to uphold the honour and exert more efforts in the service of the country. Pictures (above) shows Hajji (right) pinning a medal on an officer and (below) all the officers pose for a group photo.



276 tons of vegetable exported

Better prices sought for local produce

THE Managing Director at Kuwait Agricultural Food Products Company Khaled Al Othman was quoted as saying that the marketing situation of local agricultural products were improving relatively.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said the marketing process is deemed as an international problem.

He clarified that since agricultural products are perishable and difficult to store, most products were available simultaneously in the market and this deprives farmers from making the targeted profits through their agricultural output. Additionally, agricultural products are from time to time exposed to severe climatical fluctuation which adversely affect crops.

However, the official has called for the adopting of several measures to improve the agricultural products marketing process, clarifying that realising of the targeted objective could be represented by halting agricultural products.

Municipality will also co-operate with the authority before issuing licences to place advertisements in the sites specialised for afforestation or landscaping.

KPC denies sacking 200 Kuwaiti employees

KUWAIT Petroleum Company officials have categorically denied that they have dismissed 200 Kuwaiti workers who were working in the oil refineries since 1980.

Speaking on the issue, Abdulla Malek, assistant managing director of KPC said that these employees were transferred from Kuwait Oil Company to KPC and were supposed to carry the identity cards of KPC and KOC. He said that a total of 1,111 workers and employees were transferred from KOC to KPC and all had agreed to carry these two identity cards.

However, this particular group of workers and employees refused to carry these two cards without assigning any reason and in this respect talks were being held to arrive at a solution.

The officials said that 70 had agreed to carry the identity cards of both KPC and KOC. Insecticides

Dr Awadh Abdul Raheem, on the other hand spoke about agricultural products pollution through the use of insecticides. He pointed out that studies conducted in this field stressed that agricultural blightspoil more than one third of plants each year. He stated that the Arab world alone has spent \$318 million on insecticides.

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Dr Awadh Abdul Raheem, on the other hand spoke about agricultural products pollution

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amir initiatives

KUWAIT, April 6. (Kuna): Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Naser Al Ahmad has said here that initiatives by HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince toward sports will yield fruitful results.

In a statement to Kuna, Sheikh Nasser said the Amir and the Crown Prince have shown serious interest in extending all kinds of help to see the sports movement in Kuwait flourish and improve to reflect the shiny face of Kuwaiti youth.

He added that the Amir and the heir apparent have requested studies on the status of student and employed players, debts on sports clubs and the condition of sports infrastructure.

Sheikh Nasser said the request was made during a reception Wednesday for the board of directors of Al Qadisiya Sports Club.

The reception was also attended by the national tennis team and members of the directors of Kuwait Tennis Union. Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad, the head of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, was also present.

Premier receives

KUWAIT, April 6. (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Salem Al Sabah received in audience at Bayan palace board chairman and members of the Kuwaiti Sea Club, chairman and members of the organizing higher committee for the third speed boats and participants in the race who presented to His Highness a memorial shield on this occasion.

Health day

KUWAIT, April 6. (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Salem Al Sabah patronizes celebrations marking the international health day and health week in Kuwait, scheduled for tomorrow.

Minister of Planning Abdul-Rahman Al Awadi will attend the inauguration ceremony tomorrow at 9:00 pm in Al Dsma Theatre on behalf of HH the Crown Prince and Premier.

Qatari message

KUWAIT, April 6. (Kuna): Minister of Public Works Abdul-Rahman Ibrahim Al Houti received at his office Qatar's ambassador to Kuwait Ahmad Bin Ganim Al Romaihi who handed him a message from his Qatari counterpart.

Iraqi letter

KUWAIT, April 6. (Kuna): Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Naser M. Al Ahmad received a letter from his Iraqi counterpart Omeed M. Mubarak, it was disclosed here.

The letter, whose contents were not revealed, was conveyed by Iraqi Charge d'affaires in Kuwait during a meeting with the minister Wednesday morning.

Book fair

KUWAIT, April 6. (Kuna): Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad on Saturday will inaugurate the 10th Social Book Fair at the premises of Kuwaiti Social Scientists Association.

The 10-day fair will include several artistic shows and symposium to mark the passing of 10 years since the fair was first organised.

Sabah returns

KUWAIT, April 6. (Kuna): Deputy Premier, Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad returned home at dawn yesterday from a brief visit to Saudi Arabia.

Sheikh Sabah delivered a message from H.H. the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad, to Saudi Monarch King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz during a meeting attended by senior Saudi officials and the Kuwaiti ambassador to Riyadh.

The Kuwaiti chief diplomat conferred while there with Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and head of the national guards Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz on fraternal ties binding the two sisterly countries and developments in the region.

KAC flights

KUWAIT, April 6. (Kuna): Kuwait Airways Corporation yesterday announced that it will run 48 additional flights on the Kuwait-Jeddah route during the fasting month of Ramadan in order to facilitate a bigger number of Muslims to perform Omrah (mini-pilgrimage).

KAC vice president for Commercial Affairs Ghazi Al Mishan said KAC traffic and reservation staff at Jeddah airport and KAC offices there were re-enforced with more employees in order to provide the best services for Kaaba's visitors.

Indian embassy

A PRESS release from the Embassy of India in Kuwait has said that the embassy will remain closed on Saturday 7th April 1990 on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti.

Traffic law under study for amendments shortly

Money for licences racket blown

A COMMITTEE comprising representatives of the Ministries of Justice, Interior and the Legislation and Fatwa Department are presently studying amendments to the present traffic law.

Disclosing this information, the Director General of the General Traffic Administration (GTA) Brigadier Abdul Hamid Al Hajji said that the committee is reviewing existing laws with the intention to recommend enhanced punishments, including increasing jail terms for drivers who drive at high speed and also on those who pass the red signal.

The official said that the GTA will impound any car that is parked on the pavements and this could also include con-

fiscating the driving licence of the driver. Parking on the pavement is considered to be a traffic violation and the car could be impounded for a period of up to four months.

He added that the GTA plans to increase the minimum age of people who can apply for licences. The present age limit of 18 years is universally accepted as appropriate for a licence, he added.

Renewals

The GTA does not renew the car book, if it does not meet the Gulf technical specifications of vehicles, Hajji said and added that the GTA intends to issue plate numbers in English for those cars that travel to Europe and plates can be

obtained at border centres on payment of symbolic fees.

The official said that policemen have been instructed to be civil with female drivers. They have been told that in the event any female driver refused to produce her driving licence or the car book, the traffic policemen should note down the number plate of the car and report the incident to authorities.

Meanwhile, GTD is reportedly engaged in a wide-scale investigation into a case of illegal issuance of driving permits for regular applicants, in return for KD400 or 600 in which a senior traffic official in the rank of colonel is involved.

A local daily has said that one of the

applicants who continuously failed his driving tests blew the cover off the whole business, which started a series of investigations leading to the arrest of all people involved estimated at around 110 in different police stations pending the finalisation of the ongoing quest.

The paper said that most of the people incriminated are of Jordanian nationality and that the go-between charged KD400 to 600 in return for obtaining the signature of the involved officer.

The GTD has therefore indefinitely suspended the issuance of driving permits to applicants covered by the recent GTD list of exceptions until the whole matter is sorted out.



Science against narcotics



of production.

He pointed out that his research mainly aims at reaching to the origin of the narcotic in hashish scientifically through applying analysis on the narcotic inherited characters. He stated that scientific methods are being used by narcotics dealers and security forces must apply science in order to face up to this challenge.

Khaleela stressed that fighting narcotics is conducted through spreading awareness among people in addition to combating dealers themselves and the original production areas of these narcotics. He indicated that an international agreement was signed in 1961 and amended in 1972 which called for punishing countries producing narcotics on their lands.

The National Committee for the Combat of Narcotics has started a study on the feasibility of establishing a special research unit for the hereditary imprint of hashish. Pictures shows an officer at the Interior ministry testing narcotic substances

Medical checks on all students compulsory

HEAD of the School Health Department at the Ministry of Public Health, Dr Hussain Al Momen has stated that the ministry provides students of all educational stages with full health services. He added that the Department of School Health has a comprehensive system to combat infectious diseases and another for school health awareness.

He added that the department has started conducting comprehensive medical check-ups on newly admitted students in all educational stages as of Feb 17, 1990. This programme will last until Sept 27. He indicated that the school health department medically tested a total of 50,121 students at 701 private and government schools in 1989. He said that in addition to these services the department held 349 various symposiums for a total of 75,289 students during the academic year 88, 1989.

He emphasised the role played by the higher administration at the Ministry of Public Health and officials co-operation in order to achieve the maximum benefit.

Services offered by the department include the new students medical testing programme conducted at the stage before kindergarten during which the child is given a physical and health fitness certificate.

Another programme presented by the department is the general regular medical checkup usually conducted at the beginning of the academic year. A student is given a health card to keep for the rest of his school life.

The department follows up special medical cases at schools through the school clinic in addition to the infectious diseases fighting programme, supervising and censoring teaching staff and school atmosphere, holding health symposiums, and vaccinations.

Recognition at last...

By Jadranka Porter

Arab Times staff

OUR little hearts leapt with joy when Yousef Alayan, the editor-in-chief of the English language daily Kuwait Times, was declared president of the Kuwait Journalists Association.

We now hope that he will purge the association from those who do not belong there and bring us the recognition that other members of the press corps in Kuwait enjoy.

The English language press has been well out on the margins of the association's attention as supposedly an unknown quantity. But Alayan certainly knows his people and should know his competition.

For years we, the non-Arab journalists, have been trying to join the association, writing applications, filling in forms, attaching scores of photographs. But there has been some doubt about our credentials.

When some half a dozen of our applications were turned down our Arab colleagues consoled us.

"Believe me, there is nothing to it except the 50 per cent discount," a colleague who works mornings as a clerk in the Ministry of Education, assured me.

Oh yes, there were also a few free meals when we recently celebrated the association's 25th anniversary, he recalled.

I remember that one, they invited journalists from abroad to honour the occasion, and we read about it in the newspaper.

Promotions

Another colleague, who was recently promoted from a gate-keeper to a reporter, urged us not to lose hope. Impossible things can happen, he said, and he was speaking from experience.

He himself does not have all the qualifications but what tipped the scales in his favour was all the contacts he made with the messengers when they delivered press releases at the newspaper's gate.

By the way the new gatekeeper is planning on becoming a news editor. Failing me, he says he would settle for chief sub.

On the other hand another colleague of mine who has a Masters degree in journalism from Boulder, Colorado, is toying with the idea of applying for the post of watchman at a nearby magazine house, as a shortcut to the Kuwait Journalists Association.

What really scuppered our prospects for membership in the association was that we could not produce proof of being members in a similar association in our home countries. In my case I never worked in my country which I left straight after university. As for the two other countries I worked in one had never had a press association and the other held the same attitude as the Kuwait Journalists Association. Some of my colleagues came to Kuwait fresh from school and have no other association to apply to.

But we in fact, are not as helpless as it seems although the offers of help came from unexpected quarters — the advertising manager of an Arabic newspaper and a long-standing member of the association. He proposed to use wasita and get us in through the back door. There is nothing to worry about, he assured us, he had done it before. Ever since he got the membership card for his farash, he has had his test brought in promptly and frequently, and the farash visits his family on the banks of the Nile instead of once in two years, twice a year — at half price.

We have put our friend's offer on hold pending the new leadership's programme of action. Besides, he might not be there for too long. After all he did join a wrong association.

From the courts

17-year-old jailed for prostitution

ON complaints filed by neighbours of a 17-year-old girl identified as Nawal, security police kept a surveillance and observed several men continually coming and going from the residence.

A raid of her premises, revealed that she was using the premises for entertaining men and during the raid was said to be having sexual relations with an accused identified as Hameed.

Another accused identified as Ali was also apprehended during the raid.

However, during the course of the raid, the three accused attempted to assault police and flee the scene, but were overpowered.

The court sentenced Hameed to five years imprisonment and Nawal and Ali to two years imprisonment to be followed by deportation.

■ A MAN who used to pose as a detective and stop buses and take away maids with the excuse of investigation has been sentenced by the Court of Misdemeanours to one month's imprisonment.

The court was told that the accused used to follow buses in his private car and after stopping them used to show the passengers a yellow ID claiming he was a detective. On several occasions he took away a maid. On the last occasion, he took a Philippine maid, but a passenger who suspected his motives, took down the number of his car and gave it to the police who later apprehended him.

The Misdemeanours Court in sentencing him to a month's imprisonment also referred him to be tried by the Criminal Court on charges of kidnapping.

■ THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to four years of penal servitude and a fine of KD10, but gave him the option of paying an amount of KD100 to suspend enforcement of the ruling.

The court was told the accused drew a rifle and threatened two

arresting officers who had come to arrest his brother and threatened to shoot if they did not let his brother go. He actually fired twice to show them that he meant what he said, which forced the officers to release his brother.

People hearing the shots, investigated and the suspect was overpowered and referred to security authorities.

■ THE Criminal Court has reportedly acquitted five men charged with embezzlement of KD100,000.

The suspects, the director general, his deputy and three of his assistants and two other employees, work at the Farwaniya Co-operative Society.

The charge was made upon discovery of the budget deficit during the regular annual inventory.

■ THE traffic court in Hawally has reportedly reduced a one-month jail sentence and KD50 fine against a Kuwaiti lady charged with violating traffic regulations to a fine of KD100 only.

The court issued the sentence in absentia on March 26 against the defendant on charges that included reckless driving, overspeeding, refusing to produce the car registration to traffic police patrol and evading arrest.

■ THE Misdemeanours Court has sentenced three male patients who escaped from the Psychiatry Hospital to two months imprisonment each.

The hospital administration informed security forces that three male patients escaped from the hospital by breaking the iron partition of the windows. The first patient was entered into the hospital upon the order of the Criminal Court, the second escapee was transferred to the hospital by Fintas Police Station, the third patient was transferred to the hospital by the Narcotics Prosecution Department.

KD80,000 spent on charity in Far East

THE head of Islamic World Committee (IWC) Abdulla Al Areeqi has said that members of the committee paid visits to the Far East to study needs of Muslims in that area. The committee spent about KD80,000 on charitable projects last year such as relief projects, and building of mosques, schools and health centres in different areas of the world especially in the Far East. The committee guides wealthy Muslims who want to contribute and help the needy to the urgent needs of Muslims in the world. Further the plays an active role in exposing destructive organisations and movements. It also seeks to educate and teach new Muslims and distribute Islamic books in different languages. He added that the committee began an urgent project to maintain poor Muslim families in East Europe and also began sending financial support to imams of mosques and teachers of the Quran schools.

Areeqi pointed out that Muslim communities in East Europe suffer from the shortage of pharmaceutical supplies for months, particularly the types used with acupuncture, due to suspension of the import of these medical supplies effected by the relevant ministry officials for failing to meet standard specifications.

The situation has not only negatively affected the performance of the clinic but also hampered work progress and usual treatment programmes, due to the unavailability of need medications.



Former Indian envoy

Indian businessman Anindo Mukarjee (left) hosted a lunch last week for the former Indian Ambassador to Kuwait N.N. Jha (second right) and Mrs Jha (Mr and Mrs Jha made a stopover to Kuwait on their way to Belgrade, Jha's present posting. They are pictured with their hosts and Yugoslav Ambassador Hasan Dervishbegovich (right) and Mrs Dervishbegovich (Third right).

Underground power cables less expensive: Hajri

THE Assistant Undersecretary for electrical networks affairs at the Ministry of Electricity and Water Yousef Al Hajri has said that the main power stations are interlinked and connected with the power plants via electrical networks with varying tension levels, consisting mainly of transmission aerial cables in open

locations and under-laid cables in populated areas, which serve to distribute power among consumers.

He told a local daily that each of these two types of networks have individual advantages and disadvantages, as the aerial lines required large areas of land for their routes. He stressed that the

high cost make the ministry replace the aerial lines with underground ones inside populated areas where no adequate spaces could be spared.

The choice is also governed by the construction cost of these lines adding that the operational advantages of aerial cables

include easy location of sudden

technical failure, which mostly resulted from harsh weather conditions, such as storms, rains and environmental pollutants, which required regular maintenance, the official said.

He added that the location of failures in underground cables is frequently a time-consuming

process, along with repairs particularly when the failure happens to hit the high and ultra-high voltage cables, which requires the ministry to install special highly-sophisticated costly equipment to facilitate this task.

He said that the various networks departments at the minis-



An Afghan rebel fighter firing an anti-aircraft gun from Toora Ghara mountain near the besieged eastern town of Khost while another mujahedeen puts fingers into his ears. (Reuter wirephoto)

2 killed, 22 injured in W. Bank, Gaza

Worst clashes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 6. (Agencies): Israeli soldiers shot dead two Arab youngsters and wounded at least 22 others in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday in the worst clashes since the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan began last week.

Israeli forces shot dead Nuas Salah Hassin, 24, from Rafah camp during clashes with stone-throwers close to the Egyptian border in Gaza, military sources said.

Palestinian sources said three other youngsters were injured by live ammunition during the clash that erupted when an army vehicle drove by.

Hospital officials said 16-year-old Mustafa Al-Jaru from Jalazoun refugee camp was shot in the head with a plastic-coated metal bullet during clashes in the centre of Ramallah, north of Jerusalem.

Military sources said troops shot a stone-thrower with rubber bullets. Palestinian residents said soldiers posted on rooftops in Ramallah shot Jaru while he was walking with his brother and sister.

Officials at Ramallah hospital said two-year-old Israq Ibrahim Tawil of Tulkarm camp was in serious condition after he was hit in the head by a rubber bullet while playing outside his house. An Israeli army spokesperson confirmed the child was shot and said authorities were investigating the case.

The flare-up came after the 28-month-old uprising against Israeli rule had appeared to be waning, with few clashes and casualties since Ramadan began on March 30, despite calls by nationalist and Islamic leaders.

Abu Nidal to release European hostage

BEIRUT, April 6. (AP): Palestinian terrorist mastermind Abu Nidal's faction said that it was making contacts aimed at release of at least one of eight European hostages it holds.

Walid Khaled, Beirut spokesman for Fatah-Revolutionary Council, said the group was acting at the request of Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi.

In a typewritten statement, Khaled said the group was making "immediate contacts with the concerned parties." He did not specify the parties being contacted.

The group has acknowledged holding a French woman, Jacqueline Valente, 32, her two daughters born in captivity, named Liberte and Palestine, and five Belgians.

Khaled said Khaddafi called for the release of Ms. Valente "and her family." But he did not say which hostage or hostages would be released.

On Wednesday, Khaddafi called for the release of Ms. Valente as a compassionate measure on the occasion of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan which ends around April 26.

Abu Nidal is backed by Libya and believed to be living in Tripoli, the Libyan capital.

Fatah-Revolutionary Council said Nov. 8, 1987, that it had seized the hostages aboard the French yacht Silco off the Gaza Strip.

It claimed they were collaborating with Israel's Mossad secret service. This was denied by their friends, who said they were Roman Catholics on a holiday cruise.

French and Belgian governments, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross, have been seeking their release.

Pre-emptive strike possible

(Continued from Page 1)

The four-nation Arab Co-operation Council yesterday backed Iraq's right to "legitimate self-defence against aggression" in response to the controversy over Baghdad's threat to use chemical weapons if attacked by Israel.

The foreign ministers of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen spelled out in a communiqué "the right of Iraq or any Arab state to legitimate self-defence... but did not say whether they endorsed the use of chemical weapons."

In Tunis, the Arab League warned Israel yesterday that any attack on Iraq by Israel would be considered an attack on all 22 League members.

At a special meeting in Tunis, the League's council warned Israel or any other party "against any hostile action aimed at Iraq on whatever pretext."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Monday said his country had binary chemical weapons and threatened to burn half of Israel if it attacked Iraq. His comments were strongly attacked by Israeli and Western leaders.

Britain also runs secret services, the M15 counter-intelligence and MI6 intelligence-gathering agencies.

Bazoft, 31, who worked for a British newspaper and lived in London, was arrested in Baghdad last year while checking out reports of explosives at a suspected missile

plant. He was charged with spying for Britain and Israel.

He was executed March 15 and Britain in protest withdrew its ambassador.

Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave said the so-called confession Bazoft signed after his arrest was "a pathetic document because it clearly tells the truth about a number of rather low-level contacts with special branch officers he had in this country."

"He was, as journalists I believe do, trying to swap information with policemen, mainly about Iranian dissidents and Iranian demonstrations and so forth in London some years ago," Waldegrave added.

They were set ablaze by gunners from the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia.

Even if fighting stops, it will take months to restore even water, electricity and telephones because much of east Beirut has been destroyed by artillery and rocket fire.

"We are resorting to survival, we are on the verge of complete collapse and we are contemplating this calmly because we can't do anything," Abu Saleh said. "We've been fighting for 15 years and have reached this."

Asked how many people had fled the enclave for safer areas in Lebanon or

told Reuters after a round of difficult negotiations with officials aimed at restoring electricity to the country.

"I am still working hard — one of the few working hard — but that is to make myself live."

Abu Saleh said no comprehensive survey had been made of destruction since January 31. But he believed direct damage to property and infrastructure stood at \$1 billion.

Storage tanks holding fuel worth \$2.5 million burned fiercely on Wednesday for the third day in an area of east Beirut held by General Michel Aoun's army.

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Abu Saleh said no comprehensive survey had been made of destruction since January 31, he said: "Maybe 300,000. Maybe 30 per cent of the population of east Beirut."

Diplomats believe up to 250,000 people have left the country in the past year, many never to return. Lebanon had an estimated population of three million in 1988.

Abu Saleh said the exodus, especially among Christians, was a terrible long-term blow. Many of those leaving were wealthy, qualified or entrepreneurs.

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Kabul plans end to communist monopoly

NICOSIA, April 6. (Agencies): Afghanistan plans to strip the ruling Communist Party of its virtual monopoly on power and pave the way for multi-party democracy, a senior Afghan official said.

Habib Mangal, former ambassador to the Soviet Union, told Reuters in an interview in Cyprus that Kabul hoped the sweeping political changes would help end the Afghan civil war.

Outlining plans similar to changes that have swept eastern Europe, he said the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) planned to dissolve itself and then operate under a new name in the hope of winning wider support.

"It will no longer be a party of workers and peasants, rather an organisation

open to the participation of Afghans of different backgrounds and political affiliation," said Mangal, who is chairman of Afghanistan's House of Representatives.

"We hope to create a new political climate in Afghanistan which will allow for the formation of different political parties. Our aim is political pluralism," he said.

A Loya Jirga, or grand assembly, would convene next month to draw up a new constitution to replace the present Marxist-inspired document.

Muslim mujahideen rebels, who have fought the government since a Marxist coup in 1979, have in the past spurned offers by President Najibullah to share

power in a coalition.

Political pluralism would be given prominence and all references to the pro-Soviet PDPA deleted in the new constitution, Mangal said.

He was attending a conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, grouping parliamentarians from around the world, which voted on Monday to accept Afghanistan as a member.

Although the Afghan constitution provides for the formation of political organisations, the PDPA has so far tolerated only parties which have not challenged its leading political role and constitutional privileges.

Mangal said a PDPA congress could meet later this year to choose a new name

and change the party's manifesto.

The PDPA hopes a large number of non-communists would be part of a future coalition government, he said.

Fierce fighting has flared anew in Khost, shell-shocked town with little strategic significance but high symbolic importance in the Afghan conflict.

Normally there is little fighting in Afghanistan during Ramadan.

The mujahideen are firing artillery from key captured military outposts and pummeling the town and adjacent airport occupied by troops loyal to the Kabul government.

The government forces respond with heavy aerial bombardments to try to suppress rebel fire and dislodge the muja-

hdeens from their positions around the mine-laden perimeter.

The Kabul command at one time landed three supply flights a night in Khost. But the airstrip is badly cratered and littered with damaged planes, and supplies are now dropped by parachute.

"We are closing in on the communists. We have taken the war into the cities and now we are tightening the circle," said Jalaluddin Haqqani, the most powerful commander in the area.

"On the ground we are in complete control. In the air, the communists can still fight and still deliver supplies," Haqqani said in an interview with a reporter at rebel positions on the town's perimeter.

Parliament to vote on Labour-led government on Wednesday

I can make it, claims Peres

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 6. (Agencies): Israel's Parliament speaker agreed yesterday to recall the Knesset (Parliament) from recess next week so Labour leader Shimon Peres could present his pro-peace government.

Parliament Speaker Dov Shilansky accepted Peres' request to allow Parliament to vote on a Labour-led government, but he set the day for Wednesday after the Passover holiday.

The delay gives Shilansky's right-wing Likud Party time to try to prevent Peres from achieving a parliamentary majority.

Peres said on Wednesday that he had enough votes to break a 60-60 deadlock in the 120-seat Parliament. But he faced difficulties as Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party tried to sway supporters away from him.

A Likud envoy met rebel former minister Avraham Sharir, whose reported defection to Labour could break the tie, to try to lure him back to the right-wing fold.

Unconfirmed reports said Transport Minister Moshe Katav had convinced Sharir to talk with Shamir.

Likud parliamentarians also tried to woo the two-main Shitani (chance) centralist faction — which is prone to back Labour — by promising to fulfil its demand for a change in the electoral system to allow the direct election of a prime minister.

The call for direct elections has been growing among the Israeli public frustrated with the frag-

mented 15-party Parliament which gives small religious parties leverage.

Shitani's central committee met until late yesterday but did not decide whether to support Peres.

"We want one promise from Labour — that this will be the last time Israel witnesses the buying and selling of support in a degrading spectacle," said Amnon Rubinstein of Shitani.

Peres asked by the president to form a government after the national unity cabinet led by Likud collapsed last month, made a desperate appeal to Shitani to join him in leading Israel into US-sponsored peace talks with Palestinians in Cairo.

"The break was over the peace process, not the electoral system. In my opinion today the supreme priority should be to renew the peace process," he told Shitani's central committee.

Peres said he also favoured electoral reform and accused Likud of a last-ditch ploy which threatened the advance of peace efforts.

"They are trying to blur the peace process. To say yes to the US Secretary of State James Baker proposal is not important, suddenly what is important is to change the electoral system," he said.

Peres also met small leftist and Arab parties to secure their backing. His concessions to the ultra-orthodox religious party Agudat Israel in exchange for its support earlier this week led the leftist parties to make their own demands.

"There is a complete break-down in trust," said law professor Uriel Reichman, who is leading the reform campaign.

President Chaim Herzog asked Peres on March 20 to form a government, five days after Parliament passed a vote of no confidence in Shamir's cabinet following Labour's withdrawal. Herzog gave Peres three weeks to complete the task.

Blatant offers of money and plum political jobs made by Israeli politicians hustling to form a new government have sparked cries of corruption and demands for electoral reform by a disgruntled public.

"There is a complete breakdown in trust," said law professor Uriel Reichman, who is leading the reform campaign.

Shells crash on Beirut church

BEIRUT, April 6. (Reuter): Shells hit an east Beirut church and sliced through a congregation

LONDON, April 6. (Reuter): A new Arab grouping comprising Sudan, Egypt, Syria and Libya would soon be announced, Sudanese military leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir said in remarks published yesterday.

The London-based newspaper Asharq Al Awsat quoted Bashir as saying the proposed grouping was first thought of when he and the leaders of the three countries — Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Libya's Muammar Khaddafi and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad — met in Libya last month.

Bashir, whose country entered an integration pact with Libya in March, said Khaddafi's second-in-command, Major Abdel-Salam Jalfoud, was drafting documents for the proposed grouping.

Asharq Al Awsat said Bashir, who seized power in a coup last June, made the remarks in a meeting with Sudanese editors in Khartoum. It gave no further details.

Since taking power Bashir has repeatedly spoken of his wish to see Sudan, Libya and Egypt in a regional bloc. His reported remarks in the Arabic newspaper included the first reference to Syria as a possible partner.

Egypt, which has not given any public sign of interest in Bashir's unity plans, joined Jordan and North Yemen last year in a grouping called the Arab Co-operation Council.

Hundreds of shells crashed on other residential areas and the Metn Mountains to the north-east as troops of General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) fought with artillery, tanks and rocket barrages.

The fighting erupted a few hours after Syrian-backed President Elias Hirsh said he would respond to a call by LF chief Samir Geagea to send his troops into the Christian enclave to end two months of warfare that has killed more than 920 people and wounded 3,000.

House sources said at least 12 people were killed and more than 25 were wounded in yesterday's two-hour battle. It began after Aoun's troops struck two LF trucks loaded with ammunition in the area of Jeita, north of Beirut.

Sources close to Aoun said LF gunners retaliated by firing scores of shells on Aoun's radio and television stations, disrupting their broadcast.

General Aoun is under mounting pressure to surrender to Syrian-backed President Hirsh and end a two-month inter-Christian war.

The Pope reaffirmed that the Palestinians, as well as the Jews, have a right to a homeland.

The two men met for 20 minutes in the Papal library in an audience described by the Vatican as "private."

US embassy in Beirut fires 200

BEIRUT, April 6. (AP): The United States embassy has fired 200 of

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Egypt's economic growth slows

CAIRO, April 6. (Reuters): Egypt, struggling to cope with heavy foreign debt and foreign exchange shortages, said economic growth slowed last year and blamed external factors for the downturn.

Giving the first overall official picture of Egypt's economic performance in 1988/89, the Central Bank said both the budget deficit and trade and balance of payments deficit increased for the year which ended on June 30.

In its latest annual report, obtained by Reuters this week, the bank blamed the poor performance on a decrease in financial aid from international donors and bad farm harvests.

The report said preliminary figures showed a budget deficit of \$2.2 billion pounds (\$3.1 billion), 13.8 per cent up on the previous year. Preliminary figures have traditionally greatly underestimated the size of the budget deficit.

And the trade deficit widened to \$7.33 billion from \$6.57 billion the year before.

Egypt stopped repayments on much of its foreign debt in July 1988 and has been holding talks since then with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank on a package of economic reforms.

It needs IMF approval before it can reschedule some of its foreign debt, estimated to total \$50 billion.

But with no agreement yet signed, it has been running an increasingly hand-to-mouth existence as foreign creditors demand repayment to outstanding debt before giving fresh aid.

In a report underlining the extent of Egypt's economic problems, the bank said Gross Domestic Product grew by five per cent to 45.4 billion pounds (*17.13 billion at current rates) in 1988/89, compared to 5.9 per cent the year before.

Diplomats say official figures tend to over-estimate the extent of real GDP growth, and have said there may actually have been little or no growth in 1987/88.

Growth in the agricultural sector — accounting for about 20 per cent of GDP — fell to 2.4 per cent from 3.4 per cent, due to poorer cotton and rice harvests.

Gold falls, dollar mixed

Tokyo stocks rise

TOKYO, April 6. (API): Prices on the Tokyo stock exchange rebounded sharply today, as the US dollar declined against the Japanese yen.

The Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues closed the week at 29,278.78 points, up 1,029.72 points, or 3.65 per cent.

It was the index's fourth largest single-day advance. Its largest gain was on Oct 21, 1987, after the worldwide Black Monday stock market crash, when it surged 2,037.32 points.

Securities dealers said today's gain followed an improvement in market mood yesterday afternoon when major institutional investors began actively buying shares to support the falling market. The move helped the Nikkei index wipe out most of a 1,08.94-point morning loss to close the day yesterday down only 193.88 points.

"The market has entered on a rebounding phase as domestic demand-related issues and large-capital stocks, including steel issues, were bought briskly," said Masaya Hashizume, an analyst with Nikko securities.

"The relatively large trading volume of 800 million shares signals the beginning of a market turnaround," he said.

Yesterday, 650 million shares changed hands on the market's first section, following weeks of sessions in which typical trading volume was less than 500 million shares.

Other dealers said many participants, including institutional investors, believed the index has reached its bottom.

In currency dealing, the US dollar closed the week at 157.47 yen, down 0.43 yen from yesterday's close. After opening at 156.90 yen, it ranged between 156.55 yen and 157.65 yen.

Many market players were reducing long, or overbought, dollar positions against the yen prior to a weekend meeting of finance ministers from the group of seven industrialized nations in Paris, said Takeo Suzuki, a dealer with Yasuda Trust and Banking Co.

Suzuki said the yen "now is under less selling pressure against European currencies, including the West German mark, because their value (against the yen) have risen enough."

Other exchange dealers said they



Boesky released

Convicted stock market swindler Ivan Boesky (shown above) barred for life from the securities industry, is reportedly planning to start a new investment venture following his release from prison today.

Boesky, 53, once the living symbol of the sick Wall Street player, was reported to have spent some of his prison time to raise money for the new venture.

Investors were content to sit on the sidelines, waiting for a new trading account to begin today afternoon, traders said. The exchange divides trading into two-week and three-week periods for accounting purposes.

Traders said investors still were considering the ramifications of Tokyo's gyrations.

Dollar mixed ■ The US dollar finished mixed Thursday in dull trading on world currency markets.

Gold prices fell in the United States after rising overseas. On the commodity exchange in New York, gold bullion for current delivery settled at \$374.80 a troy ounce, down \$2.30 from late Wednesday.

tural reforms in their economies.

The preliminary agreement in the so-called Structural Impediments Initiative, reached after several months of discussions between US and Japanese negotiators, is intended to remove structural causes of their \$40 billion trade imbalance.

In the bond market, the price of benchmark No. 119 Japanese government bonds closed at 86.58 points, down from Thursday's finish of 86.55. Their yield was 7.275 per cent, up from the previous day's 7.240 per cent.

Wall Street stocks ended slightly higher yesterday after rolling back a moderate midday gain as concerns about the US economy and first-quarter corporate profits mounted.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average ended up 1.80 points at 2,721.17, with losers slightly outpacing gains 727-713 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Many investors held their positions ahead of March employment figures due today. Volume was a mild 144.2 million shares on the big board, compared with 159.5 million shares on Wednesday.

Traders had feared the Tokyo market would fall sharply overnight after rumours swept Wall Street on Wednesday that a Japanese brokerage firm might be in trouble. But the rumours were not substantiated.

Shares higher

■ Share prices finished slightly higher after a lacklustre session on London's Stock Exchange yesterday.

Investors were content to sit on the sidelines, waiting for a new trading account to begin today afternoon, traders said. The exchange divides trading into two-week and three-week periods for accounting purposes.

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Airline pilots focus on security issue

Kuwait to table proposals as conference opens

WASHINGTON, April 6. (Kuna): US Secretary of Transportation, Samuel Skinner yesterday opened the 45th annual conference of International Federation of Airline Pilots' Associations (Ifapa), with representatives from Kuwait and three Arab countries attending.

Approximately 300 delegates from 70 member associations representing some 65,000 airline pilots members around the world are attending.

The security situation related to airline travel will be the subject of

intensive discussion, as usual, at this year's annual meeting, according to Ifapa officials.

A number of studies will be debated related to security including some that will be presented by the Kuwait delegation led by Ahmed Shemali and Anwar Yaqout. Kuwait is one of four Arab countries only that are members of Ifapa. The others are Lebanon, Egypt, and Sudan.

In addition to Skinner, the opening session was addressed by L.H. Baker, president of the Ifapa and by Henry Duffy, president of the US

Policy blamed for UK inflation

LONDON, April 6. (Reuter): The Governor of the Bank of England said policy mistakes and forecasting errors were to blame for Britain's high inflation rate, the Press Association reported today.

"It is clear from the rise in inflation over the past two or three years that something has gone quite badly wrong, and I should not deny that policy mistakes and forecasting errors played a part," said Robin Leigh-Pemberton.

Interest rates were reduced when they should not have been and there was no alternative to tighter monetary policy, he told a meeting organised by the local chamber of commerce at Durham castle in northern England.

But the Press Association said Leigh-Pemberton believed Britain's current counter-inflationary

polices "are the right ones."

He quoted him as saying credit controls were "ultimately ineffective" and entry into Europe's exchange rate mechanism "was no soft option."

With annual inflation hitting 7.5 per cent and economists predicting it will rise above nine per cent by the summer, the popularity of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has slumped to an all-time low.

A gallup poll that appeared in the Daily Telegraph newspaper today said that out of 10,000 people interviewed, only 24 per cent said they were satisfied with Thatcher's performance.

The figure would make her the least popular British Prime Minister since opinion polls began more than half a century ago.

Britain's annual inflation last year was the highest in the group of seven leading industrial countries.

The Automatic Loan from the Auto Bank Plus

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Chrysler jeep sales resume

NEW YORK, April 6. (Kuna): The Chrysler Corporation said it will resume sales of its jeep vehicles to Saudi Arabia for the first time in 25 years.

The Number 3 American auto maker said the move is coming because Arab nations last year removed jeeps from the list of products they are boycotting.

Chrysler also said it hopes to increase sales of all its products in the Arab market.

The first step was naming United Arab Motors Co as the distributor for jeep and Dodge vehicles in Saudi Arabia. The distribution concern, owned by Aggar Investment Co, will construct three Saudi dealerships in Riyadh, Damman and Jeddah.

Chrysler said Saudi Arabia and the neighbouring Gulf countries represented a "tremendous market opportunity" for Chrysler products.

Commercial Bank logo, a stylized eight-pointed star.



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Trade pact with US boosts Tokyo stock

Japan pledges to implement measures reducing barriers

WASHINGTON, April 6, (Reuter): The Bush administration hailed a new agreement to open the Japanese market to US goods, but it was unclear by how much or how quickly it would help slash America's huge \$50 billion trade deficit with Japan.

US negotiators last night announced a series of measures which Japan pledged to implement to reduce barriers to the form of government policies and business practices that keep US and other foreign goods out of Japanese shops.

To Tokyo, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said today the promised structural

reforms to Japan's economy might hurt at first but would ultimately benefit his people. He also defended his government against charges it might have conceded too much to Washington.

Japan agreed to reform its distribution system to spur the sale of foreign goods, end collusive practices by big industries which worked to keep foreign firms out of Japan and to strengthen and better enforce its anti-monopoly laws.

The United States, in turn, pledged to work harder to cut its budget deficit, increase its savings rate and improve worker training in order to make more goods that attract sales abroad.

1989: Bad year for insurers

ZURICH, April 6, (Reuter): Natural and man-made disasters conspired to make 1989 a "year of catastrophes" for insurers, forcing them to pay record claims, according to a study published yesterday.

Major disasters killed some 15,000 people, much lower than the 50,000 in 1988, but caused at least \$13.75 billion worth of damage to insured property last year, the survey by the Swiss Reinsurance Company said.

"The year 1989 will without doubt go down in history as the year of catastrophes," it said.

The trend toward both natural and man-made disasters is on the rise, the company said. \$1 billion

disasters could be expected every three to five years in the 1970s and early 1980s, but are now more frequent.

Four disasters alone — hurricane Hugo, the explosion at a Texas petrochemical plant, the California earthquake and the "Exxon Valdez" oil spill — accounted for more than half of the 1989 damages claims.

The study recorded 292 "disasters" that killed at least 20 people or caused property damage worth \$16.2 million last year, only 10 more than in 1988. But the amount of damage they caused more than doubled.

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION WINNERS AND LOSERS

PART NINE: Toronto

If you haven't seen Toronto then you haven't lived. That's what most Torontonians will tell you. Actually, they've got a point.

The most populous and wealthy province in Canada is Ontario and its capital is Toronto. You'll see it in some ways as a clean, young, modern and safe New York. Many of the big corporations that operate in Canada have their homes here and you'll find many big foreign companies which have set up headquarters here as well. But Toronto has much more to boast about than big bucks. Many of Canada's finest educational institutes and research centres are found in the city.

It has been said, probably by a Torontonian, that an economic decision made in Toronto is one that affects all of Canada. It's not surprising since, pragmatic as Canada always is, the private sector flourishes here. It is strictly for those who love the dynamic life. With a population of around three million, and growing, it is the largest urban center in Canada.

Socially it has competed with New York, and sometimes won, as far as night life goes. The big difference is that you can spend your taxi fare on that little extra treat in a restaurant and walk home safely, night and day. But if you're not interested in the theatre, the ballet or the range of art and science museums, you'll be amazed at its impressive urban transport system, and the modernity of the whole city. This was due to the energetic growth that followed the decades after World War II. It was in the last thirty years or so that the ethnic character of Toronto changed and people from all nationalities shared in its economic prosperity.

But once again, and if we say it too often you may stop believing us, people are amazed at the law and order ethics of Toronto. That a city can move at such a pace and move with respect to the movement of others is

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By John Garuffi and Benito Rotella

...sueving that is envied by other cities. But then the Canadians have always had this special in-built discipline that carried them from colony to country.

Metropolitan Toronto is flat but through its sprawling urban areas run rivers and streams. The north shore of Lake Ontario on which Toronto lies is in fact populated with islands that are recreational haunts for most of the residents. Running from the waterfront right out into the suburbs is the world's largest street, Young Street. If you can't find what you want on this street then whatever you want probably doesn't exist.

There is just about everything you'll need for high quality living. You'll need a few lifetimes to get through the range of sporting, social and cultural activities it has to offer for you and the family. You could spend a life time in fact just counting the well-cared for parks that are open all year round.

The winter? Well, it is tough if you're not used to it. Once again the underground network comes in as a life saver and anywhere you go will generally be heated.

The cost of living in Toronto is higher than any other city in Canada. Sorry about that, but then it's always the same. Where bucks are made, bucks are spent. So you will need a consultant's help to determine if you have got the financial resources to live in Toronto. A word of warning: It's a shopper's paradise, so be careful about who carries the credit cards in the family.

For many immigrants coming to Canada, Toronto is a first choice because of the fact that it is English speaking. For some it is too fast and too competitive. It's an individual choice and an important one. Don't choose to live there just because your great aunt does.

Think carefully and get some solid information on how much everything from a car to a hockey stick will cost you. To learn more about Toronto contact us. After all, some of us live there. And love it.

It is co-sponsored by the committee's powerful Democratic chairman, Donald Riegle, and its ranking Republican member, Jake Garn.

The lawmakers, fearful that US banks and securities companies will lose out to Japan just as many American manufacturers already have, angrily attacked the administration for failing to back their efforts.

"How naive can we be?" Garn asked. "Our markets are being gutted... but we're afraid of retaliation."

Japanese banks have used their country's excess savings to win a bigger share of the US and other financial markets outside of Tokyo.

Asked if whether Japan had been too accommodating to US demands, Kaifu said: "There will be such views, and then there will be views that we were too stubborn. There are a range of opinions."

"As this was not a negotiation, there will not be a compromise", but the important thing was that we reach some common ground that both sides can agree to, and I think this was achieved."

A 28-page report released after the Washington talks outlined plans on how each side plans to remove its so-called structural barriers to trade. A final, more detailed report will be issued in July.

Asked if any changes will be made to July, Kaifu said he expected to see further progress. "For example, there will be more details about public investment..."

One of the biggest domestic issue was the US demand for the abolition of Tokyo's curbs on large retail stores, which have long protected smaller shopkeepers.

Japan agreed to amend the large-scale retail store law during the next regular parliamentary session later this year, which will mean Kaifu must negotiate passage of a bill through the opposition-controlled Upper House.

The Glass-Steagall Act, which prohibits commercial banks from engaging in securities activities, has been "particularly burdensome," Greenspan said.

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McDonald's blasts 'heart savers' for 'poisoning' advertisement

CHICAGO, April 6, (UPI): Fast food giant McDonald's said it may eliminate beef tallow from its recipe for French fries but condemned a nation-wide newspaper advertisement claiming the chain is "poisoning" consumers.

"Let's start with the obvious: This ad is reckless, misleading and intended to scare rather than inform," McDonald's Corp. senior vice-president Dick Starmann said.

The ad, which appeared Wednesday in the Wall Street Journal and more than a



Kaifu holds up a report on the Washington trade talks. (Reuter wirephoto)

'US bank bill could frighten investors'

WASHINGTON, April 6, (Reuter): The Bush administration warned yesterday that proposed legislation aimed at winning US banks and securities companies more business in Japan could end up disrupting world financial markets.

US Treasury Undersecretary David Mulford said Washington would risk retaliation from abroad if it used the powers available in the bill to open up overseas financial markets to US competition.

US officials said that a fall in the deficit would be a measurement of the success of the talks, but rejected the idea that any timetable should be set for the deficit reductions.

Some officials worried that results of the talks could take as long as five years to show up in trade statistics.

Senator Lloyd Bentsen, chairman of the finance committee, which writes trade legislation, said Japan had agreed to many trade reform moves in the past which had not produced results.

The Texas democrat said after a briefing on the pact: "I'm much less interested in what this agreement pledges than what it provides in the way of increased world trade."

Kaifu said it had been his political goal to improve the quality of life of his fellow citizens, benefit consumers and bring the Japanese economy into better harmony with the world.

Promotion of structural reform of Japan's economy will make a major contribution to the achievement of the goals, and therefore, will be in our national interest," Kaifu said.

Asked whether Japan had been too accommodating to US demands, Kaifu said: "There will be such views, and then there will be views that we were too stubborn. There are a range of opinions."

"As this was not a negotiation, there will not be a compromise", but the important thing was that we reach some common ground that both sides can agree to, and I think this was achieved."

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Feat of precision 'IBM' with 35 atoms

NEW YORK, April 6, (AP): Scientists have arranged 35 atoms in a feat of precision that may one day lead to far faster computers.

It took 22 hours of moving atoms one by one to create the letters "IBM," researchers Donald Eigler said.

The design, about 660 billionths of an inch (2.54 cms) long, is featured in a report by Eigler and Erhard Schweizer, who did the work at IBM's Almaden Research Centre in San Jose, California. The report is in Thursday's issue of the British journal Nature.

"The implications are really remarkable," said Stuart Lindley, an Arizona State University physicist.

Someday, that ability may let researchers build tiny electronic components, allowing computers far faster than today's supercomputers, scientists said. Atoms may also be assembled into molecules to create new substances and materials.

The IBM scientists arranged atoms of a heavy gas called xenon on a surface made of nickel in a process: "to tugging ping pong balls over the bumpy bottom of an egg carton. The scientists used a device called a scanning tunnelling microscope, which produces extremely detailed images of surfaces. It can sense atoms on a surface by passing the tip of a needle over it."

The tip holds a magnet-like attraction for atoms. When the tip was brought close enough to a xenon atom, it could pull the atom across the surface.

The needle had to tug hard enough to haul a xenon atom over bumpy nickel atoms on the surface, but gently enough not to lift off the surface, Eigler said.

The amount of pull was adjusted by changing the needle tip's height. Typically, the tip hovered about 10 billionths of an inch above a xenon atom.

The scientists used a vacuum and temperatures to keep the xenon atoms from wandering, and in an extremely high vacuum to keep unwanted molecules from contaminating the surface.

Foreign lenders to loan Jordan \$369m

Amman-IMF accord

AMMAN, April 6, (AP): Jordan and the International Monetary Fund have reached agreement paving the way for loans totaling \$369 million to the cash-short kingdom, the Central Bank of Jordan announced yesterday.

A Central Bank statement, carried by the official news agency, Petra, said Jordan could receive half of an IMF standby credit totalling \$44 million before the end of June.

The agreement also includes a \$150 million World Bank loan, a \$150 million loan from the Japanese government, and \$25 million from the West German government.

According to the statement, the agreement was the result of five days of talks between the Finance Ministry and an IMF delegation.

The remaining \$22 million in the IMF standby credit will be released subject to Jordan convincing the fund that the kingdom was meeting targets set in an

economic restructuring programme agreed on in 1989, the first year of an austerity programme.

The programme was designed to address a chronic foreign exchange shortage and budget deficits foreseen in the next five years.

Jordan, straining under a foreign debt burden of \$8.3 billion, approached foreign lenders for new credits in November 1988. It also pursued negotiations with creditors to reschedule its 1989 and 1990 repayments.

The kingdom reached rescheduling agreements with major creditors for the two years.

Jordan-IMF negotiations would enable the country to reschedule foreign debt principal repayments, due in 1991, estimated at \$640 million.

It added the Amman government was also seeking to reschedule interest on foreign loans during the same year estimated at \$450 million.

The ground beef most people buy in supermarkets, Starmann said. "In fact, our ground beef qualified for the (agriculture department) standard for 'lean beef'."

"Obviously, there are fatter hamburgers in grocery stores," Sokoloff conceded. "The qualifications for what constitutes lean meat vary from state to state."

The fat content of McDonald's hamburgers is about the average for hamburgers sold by major chains, he said.

Reuter

Exchange service launched

LONDON, April 6, (Reuter): The international news and information organisation launched a new service called Money 2000 for the 24-hour global markets in foreign exchange and money on Wednesday.

It is the first major information service which the company has introduced for these markets since the birth in 1973 of Reuter monitor.

A statement said Money 2000, brought together on a single screen rates contributed by banks and brokers in 82 countries together with quotations for all leading instruments in the major financial futures and options markets.

Reuter product group leader Buford Smith said: "Money 2000 is a key part of our continuing strategy to provide our customers around the world with the fastest, most flexible and most comprehensive range of services so that they can make better decisions faster."

Iranian missions look for \$27b aid

NICOSIA, Cyprus, April 6, (AP): A senior Iranian official said yesterday that lists of projects for which foreign investment were needed have been sent to Iranian missions worldwide.

Morteza Alavi, head of the parliament's plan and budget commission, said that any country with which Iran had diplomatic relations could invest in Iran.

But he said priority would be given to companies which offered training, transferable technology and made maximum use of Iranian resources.

Alavi is in Nicosia for a meeting of the International Parliament Union.

Alavi admitted that in the parliamentary debates on the five-year plan, which was approved in January, about 80 of the 270 representatives had opposed the government's plan to seek foreign investment.

Alavi said foreign investments would be paid back in income generated from projects in which the investments were made.

Alavi said Iranian factories were working at 30 per cent capacity, and that boosting production was one of the government's major concerns.

He said another major goal was to designate a realistic exchange rate for the rial, which is kept artificially inflated at 70 rials to the dollar.

That rate is artificial because on a free market basis the rial trades at 1300 to the dollar or more. A rate of between 700 and 800 is being sought.

Alavi said the solution is probably devaluation but "the time we will do this has not been finalized."

Iranian President Hosseini Rafsanjani has said his country will seek \$27 billion in foreign investments in the framework of a five-year plan to rescue the ailing economy.

EVENTS



Al Abeer turns three

AL ABEER Nursery School, Abbasiyah, recently celebrated its third anniversary. The young students held a special programme for the occasion. Varghese Gee, the Indian embassy's First Secretary, was the guest of honour. Merina George welcomed the gathering.

The Indian School's (Abbasiyah Branch) Principal T.K. Viswanath spoke on the importance of pre-primary education. Mrs Varghese Gee distributed the prizes and Elizabeth Thomas Jacob presented the annual report. Finally Mrs Daniel extended vote of thanks.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

- 1.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 1.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetitio)
- 1.30 Cultural programme: Animals of the world.
- 2.00 Cartoon
- 2.30 Historical serial: Maal Sabireen (part 12)
- 3.35 Local health programme
- 3.50 Arabic daily serial: Qabadi Bahli (part 12)
- 4.35 Local religious programme
- 4.45 Arabic daily serial: Raafat Al Hajan (part 12)
- 5.30 Religious programme
- 6.15 Cartoons
- 6.45 Baadal Iftar: Religious feature
- 7.00 Local children serial
- 8.00 Religious programme: Nourislam
- 8.45 Cultural programme: Juhaana
- 9.45 Local programme: Sawalef Minal Madi

KTV 2

- 8.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
- 8.10 Star. A cartoon series for children
- 8.30 Survival
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Welcome Ramadan.
- 9.45 Face to Face. An interview with His Excellency Sheikh Saud Al Sabah.
- 10.15 Final Run
- 11.00 Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom
- 11.30 Feature film
- 1.30 News in Brief
- 1.45 Magazoo D'Actualite

CINEMA

- Al Andalus
- Cold Steel
- Al Salimiyah
- Good Morning Vietnam
- Al Hamra
- Arabic film
- Drive-in
- Raiders of Paradise
- Al Firdosa
- Kaun Jeta Kaun Hara
- Fahheel Open
- Subh-o-Sham
- Fahheel
- Nazdu Vazhikal
- Al Jaha
- Beverly Hills Body Snatchers
- Granda
- Night Wars
- Sulabikhat
- Arabic film
- Jeeb
- Chithram
- Ahmad Drive-In
- Blue Jiguna



Independence Day observed

The Shatadal Cultural Group organised an extensive outdoor programme to mark the 19th anniversary of the Independence Day of Bangladesh.

They gathered at Augilia Family Beach and had their day-long business in having a picnic, sports-competition for children and adults, discussion on Independence Day, distribution of prizes to the winners in the competitions, recitation of poems and songs of patriotism.

The sports were conducted by sports secretary Simal Bhuyan who was assisted by Safaruzzaman Lal, Sekandar Hossain, Lokman Hossain and Kohinoor Begum.

The discussion session was presided by Khondker Abdul Hannan, president of Shatadal and was addressed by M.A. Samad, member of the advisory council and Jamal Haidar, the general secretary. The speakers commemorated the leadership and sacrifice of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in establishing free, independent and sovereign Bangladesh. They expressed their deep concern at the deplorable economic condition of their homeland.

The discussion was followed by recitation of poems by poet Nasreen Chowdhury and Shatadal member Babul Akhtar Noor.

The winners in the sports-competition were awarded prizes by the special guest M.A. Samad. The entire programme was conducted by Jamal Haidar, the General Secretary of Shatadal.

NIGHT CINEMA

- Kuwait City
- Fahheel & Ahmad
- Al Sharqiyah Pharmacy
- Al Hilal Street
- Al Dharban Pharmacy
- Arab Gulf Street
- Hawalli and Nugra
- Al Qatun Pharmacy
- Al Othman Street
- Salimiyah and Rumeithya
- Al Quds Pharmacy
- Amman Street
- Fahheel & Ahmad
- Burgan Pharmacy
- Al Sabah Market
- Jeeb Shuayyakh
- Palestine Pharmacy
- Main Street
- Jahra
- Al Khaled Pharmacy
- Opposite of Co-operative Society

PRAYERS

Imask	4.00 am
Fajr	4.10
Zohr	11.50
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	6.10
Isha	7.28

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Bits 'n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

Sultan Gallery

Furniture of Kuwait, pre-oil 1940s furniture, is currently on show at the Sultan Gallery; daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

From April 16, 1990, "The Mosques of Isfahān" exhibition will be shown at the gallery; it will be open daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

SOCIAL

Holy Week 1990

Holy Family Cathedral — Kuwait

Palm and Passion Sunday: 8th April — 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 3.25 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 4.30 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.45 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.55 pm, Holy Mass (English).

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the Holy Week: 9th, 10th, 11th April — 7.15 am, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm, Confession; 6.30 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass & Retreat (Malayalam — in big hall).

Maundy Thursday: 12th April — 7.00 am, Celebrated Mass of Chrism (English); 4.00 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.30 pm, Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English); 9.00 pm, Adoration (English — in the big hall).

Good Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence) — 7.00 am, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam); 9.00 am, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 2.30 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Konkani); 4.00 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 5.30 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English).

Holy Saturday: 14th April — 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm Confessions: 8.00 pm, Easter Vigil Mass (English).

Easter Sunday: 15th April — 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 9.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 10.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.30 am, Holy Mass (French in big hall); 12.00 noon, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall).

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkuni drama entitled "Ostorecua Mog (Woman's Love) directed by Remmick J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC, Goan Charlie Chaplin — Janeito Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sebby Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Canadian Women's League

An invitation is extended to all Canadian women to attend this month's meeting which will be held on Saturday April 7 from 4 to 6 pm in Qurtoba. For more information contact 2563025 or 2653067.

Hyderabad
The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECCE) invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah — the Architect of the Pakistan Resolution.

Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan." The essays between 1000 and 1500 words, in Urdu or English, should be sent by 15th of April.

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadi and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convener Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Summer Aftar '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Aftar" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Rankers, Perfect Strangers, Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Satigaocars

CALLING all Satigaocars... to respond the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2406936 (Res), Aloco Carvalho, 2411442 Res. 246121, America Remedios, Res. 3983348 and Paul D'Cruz, Res. 2444729, Tony Cordero off. 2415401, Res. 2412337.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre are presenting a St. George's Day Revue on Thursday 19 April to the Unity Centre, Ahmadi, beginning at 7.30 pm (Please note the change of date to that previously advertised). Acts include Phil Thomas, June Woolston, The Kuwait Folk Group, and the Kuwait Singers. Tickets and tables can be booked by telephoning 3919759.

Indian Cuisine Centre
Indian art of fancied lac banigies and deisgnaed benna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Sindhu Devi

PADMASREE Dr. K.J. Yesudas and leading famous playback singer Miss Sindhu Devi is coming to Kuwait to perform two days musical concert on April 24th and 25th 1990 in Granada Theatre, Kheitan.

British Council

The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadan: General office — Saturday to Wednesday — 7.30 to 14.00; Library — Saturday to Wednesday — 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday — 9.00 to 1.20.

Kuwait Plaza

SPECIAL Ramadan Activities: Al Dallat coffee shop features authentic iftar with sumptuous dishes, mezza, sweet, ramadan drioks and a special buffet.

NOURANI TERRACE

Surrounded by man-made waterfalls and green sceneries offers all kinds of light meals, juices, ramadan drioks, bubbly-bubble and trick traik in an open air atmosphere. open from 8 pm until 2 am.

LOLOWAH CORNER

Invites you to spend an evening out with your family. Enjoy all kinds of Kuwati and Arabic sweets with variety of delicious beverage and live entertainment. Open from sunset until 2 am.

Anglican services

PAUL'S Church, Ahmad Anglican services Maundy Thursday, 8 pm, The Last Supper.

Good Friday, 2 pm, The Cross of Christ, 7 pm United Service Easter Day, 8.30 am, Holy Communion: 11.30 am Luncheon family service: 12.30 pm Luncheon communion: 6.30 pm Easter festival, with the Ahmad Music Group; 7.30-8 pm Holy Communion. For further particulars ring 3985924.

Rose Ferns' drama

MAY 10-11. Expatiates Club proudly announces that God's celebrated king of centurys shows Rose Ferns, and his sixteen member troupe, will present at the Granada Cinema hall, Kiteen, his premier release in Kuwait "Xixue" (Broken Glass) and "Beitun Tum" (You Ungrateful) which has already crossed the burred plus mark in God. More details later.

PAC'S Silver Jubilee

THE organising committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programme and "Shame-Ghazal". Our earlier artist will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.

Reservations are open to all families. All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact 4716258.

Kuwait Players

The Kuwait Players will be performing "On Pink Paper In Black and White" on Wednesday and Thursday April 18 and 19 respectively. The play comprises of 3 one act plays and starts at 8.00 pm at the American School. For tickets and more information contact 5629875 or 5640981.

Daniella Dhow Trip

Daniella invites all Dunes to go on a dhow trip on Friday, May 4. For registration, please call Jytte on Tel: 2449610 before April 22.

Konkani non-stop show

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Koxti Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Ujorda, organised by Utorda Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm, Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817857.

Narmada's Malayalam play

NARMADA Theatres will be staging a social Malayalam play, "Love Mantra" From Ujain, at Indian Arts Circle, auditorium, "Furnitures" on Friday, May 11, 1990 at 6.30 pm. Written by Varghees Paul, lyrics by Rajendra Babu, music by Antojo Joseph, the play is co-directed by Sherly John and directed by Jayan Pattathu. Various characters are being represented by popular stage artists among the Malayalee community in Kuwait.

HOTELS

Mughal Mehal

FIRST Indian restaurant to introduce Mughlai cuisine in Kuwait. Enjoy our specialities such as: Khandari Tikka Malai Kali Kebab, Navratan Briyani and lots more. Ramadan diners. As is traditional during the month of Ramadan, ghabgah will also be available at the time of your choice, arranged exclusively for you and your guests. Just call the banquet department on 245-5550, ext. 967/929 to place your order.

Sheraton Hotel

HUNTR ROOM: Opens for Iftar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. RICARDO: Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo — Fraco + Regina. BEEF SHOP: Will serve an Iftar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, mezza, etc. Enjoy Suboor from 12 pm to 3 am.

AL MUBARAKIAH

DAIYAH: Will serve an Iftar Buffet with a selection of fresh dishes. Kuwaiti and Middle Eastern specialities.

Ghabga & Sohour

Enjoy the daily fresh desserts and juices with the delightful sohour buffet accompanied by soft Middle Eastern background music on the oud.

Holiday Inn

COFFEE SHOP: Lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine for only KD6.000 including beverages. First two kids free, per family, the rest half price.

SUHOOR: Eat as much as you can for KD2.000. LOBBY CAFE: All kinds of freshly squeezed juices plus mouth-watering pastries. BABYLON GARDENS: Order for 2 and pay for 1. From 7 to 9 pm nightly. Enjoy a variety of Arabic and Continental sweets and associated fresh fruit juices.

LA PERCOLA

The beach side open air restaurant offers light meals and snacks from sunset to midnight.

The Meridien

DURING the holy month of Ramadan

LA BRASSERIE

Meridien invites you to join us for a delicious Iftar buffet being served during the holy month of Ramadan. Indulge in a sumptuous variety of traditional dishes including a variety of me

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



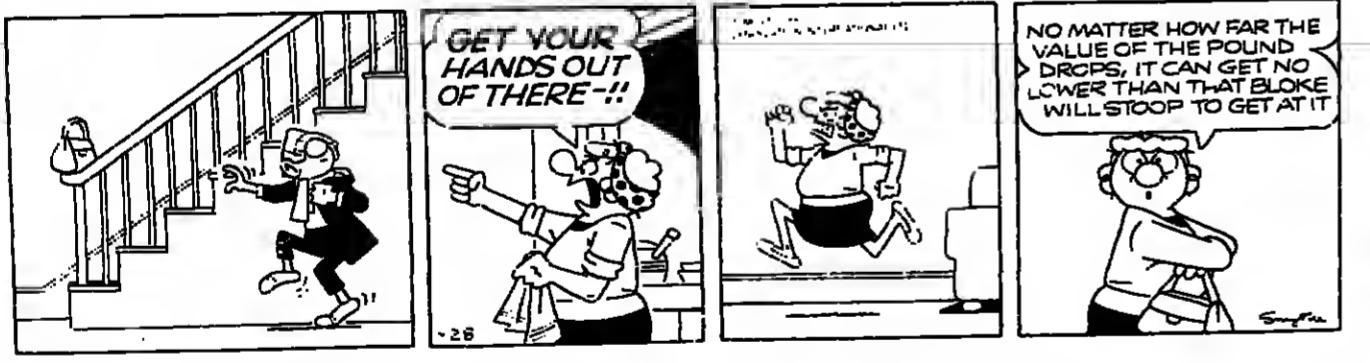
BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



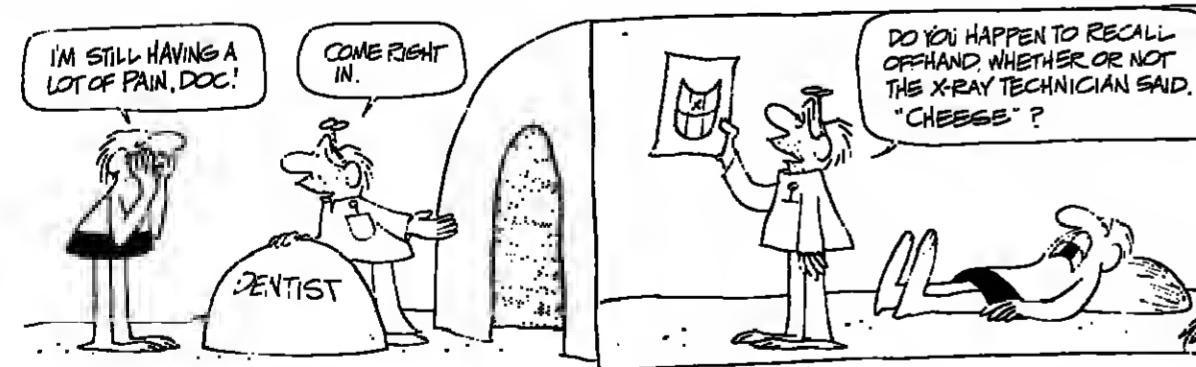
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



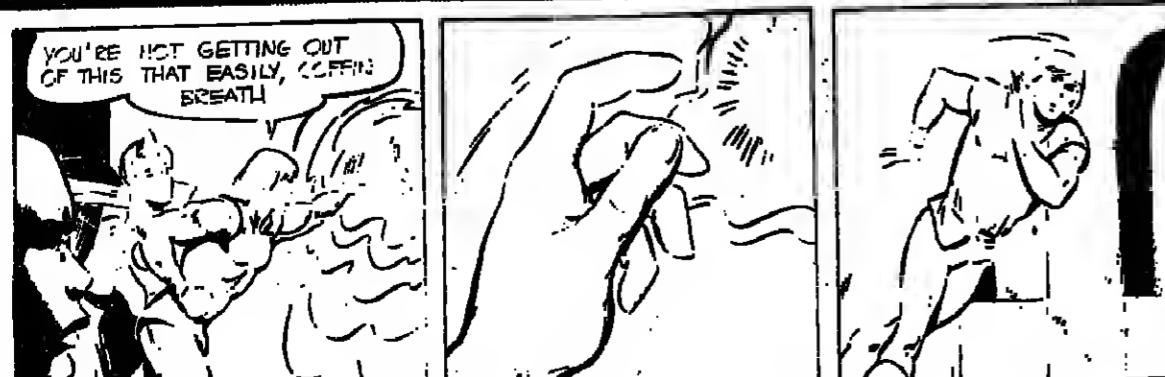
ANDY CAPP



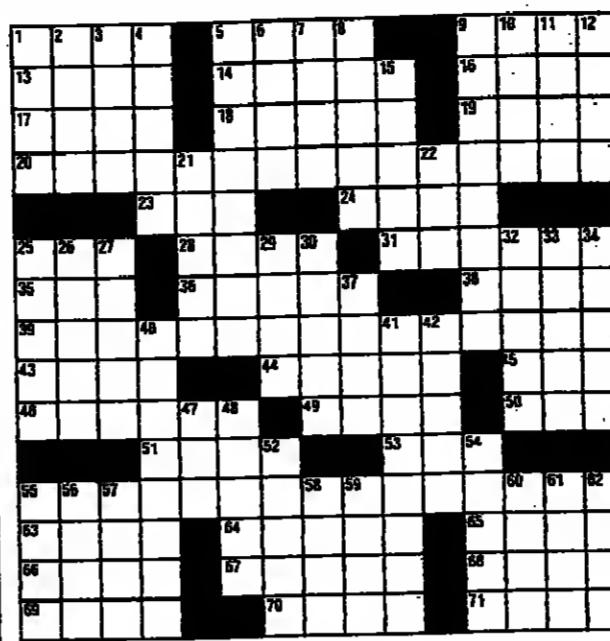
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND LORNA SHAW

THE WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

A 7 4

K 10 7 6 5

J

K 10 8 6

EAST

9

A J 3

K Q 10 9 6 5 4 3 7 2

J 5

SOUTH

K 10 8 3

8

A 8 3

A Q 7 4 2

The bidding:

West

North

Dbl

1

Pass

2

Pass

3

Pass

4

Dbl

Rdbl

Pass

Pass

The opening lead:

King of

Strange are the ways of bridge

experts. This auction occurred in the

World Team Championship. The

only bids that make any sense are

West's opening bid, North's and

South's doubles and West's three

diamonds. In between, there was a

lot of obfuscating going on.

North's double and South's first

double (by partnership agreement)

were both for takeout. Thereafter,

East and West elected to bid the suits they didn't have rather than the ones they did. It is interesting to note that the one suit in which game is sure and slam a possibility—clubs—was never mentioned during the auction.

Declarer won the opening lead in hand and immediately led a heart. West rose with the ace and shifted to the jack of clubs. Since it was obvious East held the long trumps, declarer won the club in dummy and led a low spade. Since he could afford to lose two spade tricks and still make his contract, it would seem his best chance was to play East for both missing honors and, when East followed low, put in the ten. However, declarer chose to finesse the eight. That lost to West's nine and declarer eventually went down two tricks, conceding 1,000 points.

The contract would have succeeded had declarer inserted the ten of trumps. When that wins, declarer ruffs a diamond on the board, cashes the king of hearts, discarding a club from hand, then ruffs a heart in hand. A club to the ten provides the entry for another heart ruff and declarer can ruff a diamond with the ace and still score the king of trumps to fulfill his contract.

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Arab water clock chimes again

FEZ, Morocco. (Reuters) Motionless for over five centuries, an Arab water clock will chime again next year thanks to researchers who have solved the mystery of how it worked.

The Bou Inania Clepsydra, or water clock, built by Arab scientists in May 1357 in the walled city of Fez, told the time for a century to regulate Muslim prayers five times a day.

But when the Saadian Dynasty replaced Merinid rulers and moved their capital south to Marrakesh, Fez sank into decline. One day the clock stopped, and there was no-one left who knew how to start it.

The clock did not tick, it dripped. It was wound up by filling a cistern with water and told the time with chimes and a system of windows that opened as the hours passed.

Today the Clepsydra, a brick structure eight metres (26.25 feet) high and wide standing in a narrow street, is a sad ruin. Much of its mechanism has long disappeared.

Tourist guides cannot explain the exact operation of a row of 12 keyhole windows with bowl-shaped gongs made of brass below them.

But architect Abdellatif El Hajjami, who heads a project to restore the old quarter of Fez, told Reuters that researchers had found a manuscript written in Arabic in 1206 that details water clock mechanisms.

"We have succeeded in solving the mystery," he said.

Scientists led by Mohamed Kouam of the Mohammedia Engineering School in Rabat are making a replica of the mechanism based on the document, written by one Abu Hassan Ali Al Jazari.

"It will be working again within one year, insh'Allah," (God willing), said Hajjami, who said the work will cost \$250,000.

"It will be a great tourism attraction, the only working clock of its kind in the world, demonstrating the ingenuity of Arab scientists in the Middle Ages," he said.

Clepsydras are thought to have been invented in Egypt before Christ. Developed by the Greeks and Romans, they were perfected by the Arabs in the 12th and 13th centuries.

There is now no trace of water clocks recorded by historians in Baghdad, Cordoba and Damascus. The one in Fez, built for Sultan Bou Inania of the Merinid Dynasty, is the oldest one left.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica lists Salisbury Cathedral in England as having the world's oldest working mechanical clock, built in 1386 — 29 years after Fez's Clepsydra.

Restoration of the Bou Inania clock is being financed by the Benjelloun-Mezzini Foundation for Science, Culture and the Arts, a private organisation based in Casablanca.

The Clepsydra mechanism was operated by a chain running behind the row of windows. One end of it was attached to a float in the cistern and the other to a counterweight.

As water dropped out of the cistern the float descended, pulling the chain over pulleys and operating the windows. When a window opened a metal ball fell out of it, dropped on to a grooved beam and ran against one of the gongs, making it chime.



Michael Caine and Roger Moore star as conmen Sidney and Gerald in the new film Bullseye!

Nicked as conmen ... Bond and Palmer

How the world's top secret agents have fallen! In their latest movie Bullseye!, Michael Caine and Roger Moore are small-time crooks who can't even escape from a London bobby.



Willie and Gerald come to grips with a common-or-garden dart

By Frank Durham

THE beautiful girls are still drapped decoratively around... and the locations are just as exotic... but there have been some shocking changes in the lives of secret agents James Bond and Harry Palmer.

Firstly, in their latest movie Bullseye!, Michael Caine and Roger Moore are just a pair of small-time crooks. And the men who have coolly and successfully evaded some of the world's most evil villains are caught red-handed by ordinary English coppers.

Worse... they are wounded as they ply their dishonest trade as conmen. Not with a poisoned arrow or even a gold-plated revolver... just a plain everyday dart in the hand and nose.

In Bullseye!, cinemagoers get four stars for the price of two. For Caine and Moore play not only the conmen, but two crooked scientists who look just like them.

The plot turns into a series of hilarious chases as the likely lads pinch a few diamonds while posing as the nuclear scientists, who have discovered a new process worth millions.

Locations vary from the unlikely to the outrageous as Moore and Caine hop on and off the Orient Express and even get caught up in the Highland Games. They filmed at Kent's Hever Castle, where Henry VIII wooed Anne Boleyn, and in a dreary, deserted London School.

Joining in the Keys one Kops-type revels is hustly Sally Kirkland and Roger's blossoming actress daughter Deborah Barrymore.

Michael Caine, who plays conman Sidney, says: "I think you could say this film is very much like Mad Mad World, because it's just one big chase from beginning to end. Roger and I play two ordinary Englishmen, who happen to be confidence men. They wind up impersonating two nuclear scientists."

"It was a lot of fun. We had a good time, old Roger and me. I play Sidney, a Cockney, which was easy for me, and also an American, Dr Dan Hicklar, which was not so easy."

And Roger Moore, who plays Gerald, added: "Playing a dual role is difficult, because we are on screen almost all of the time. The minute they say 'Cut', we're back on screen as the other fellows chasing each other. This means we're chasing ourselves... if you see what I mean."

In the film, the two scientists have been running a government-funded experiment with cold fusion. This is a cheap way of making energy, and a process scientists all over the world have dreamed of discovering. Dr Bristock and Hicklar have found the formula — but refuse to admit it.

Instead, the scientists are hoping to sell their discovery to the highest bidder. So, bappy in the knowledge they would be stealing from crooks, Sidney and Gerald, with the help of Willie, played by Sally Kirkland, plan a way to beat the scientists at their own game.

The three create the perfect heist and manage to pull off the job with remarkable ease, stealing \$3 million of diamonds from a London bank.

But that is only the beginning... the two have been set up by British Intelligence agents and are arrested by humble English bobbies. They are given a choice. They must either go to jail, or help stop the illegal auction of plans by carrying on with their impersonation of the scientists, and selling false information instead.

Your health

No link between vaccine and epilepsy

CHICAGO. (AP) A vaccine commonly administered to youngsters five times by their fifth birthday does not increase the risk for epilepsy and other neurological problems, researchers say.

Previous reports indicated a possible link between one component of diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus vaccine and such disorders.

"Our study provides reassurance to parents that DPT vac-

cine does not cause serious diseases of the brain," Wayne Ray, an associate professor of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University, said Thursday.

DPT vaccine is given to tens of thousands of children each week.

Children typically are immunised three times in their first year of life, again at about 18 months and for the last time at around 5 years of age.

The vaccine frequently causes low fevers and some swelling at the point of immunisation.

Earlier case reports and lawsuits filed by parents against pharmaceutical companies have alleged that the pertussis, or whooping cough, component of DPT vaccine has caused seizures and even death.

But the study, reported in Friday's *Journal of the American Medical Association*, when seen in conjunction with other recent studies of the vaccine, should provide great reassurance to parents that there is

no such link, Ray said.

Ray and the co-authors of his study examined the Medicaid records of 38,171 Tennessee children who received more than 107,000 DPT immunisations in their first week of life.

They compared the rate of neurological events such as seizures that occurred immediately following immunisation with the rate of such events that occurred 30 or more days after inoculation.

Margaux returns to life in fast lane

Sunwashed on Playboy

HOLLYWOOD. (UPI) Life in the fast lane destroyed Margaux Hemingway's film career just as it was getting under way a decade ago, but now, at 35, the granddaughter of the late, great author says she is ready to come back.

And the best way to get Hollywood attention, she figured, was to pose nude.

The statuesque model-actress is featured inside — and on the cover — of Playboy's current edition. If nothing else, she proved she is in great shape.

She insists that everything else is in order, too, claiming victory in her battle against alcohol and cocaine dependencies.

Hemingway was a giddy 19-year-old when she burst of the optional scene as an ingenue in *Lipstick*. The movie was terrible, but she captured the country's imagination.

A fresh-faced, outdoor girl from Ketchum, Idaho, Hemingway was a delightfully candid, naive newcomer whose love of life catapulted her into celebrity. She adored the cover of *Time* magazine.

After all, this was Ernest Hemingway's granddaughter.

She signed a \$1 million contract to promote a perfume and toured the world. She made movies — *Killer Fish*, *A Fistful of Chopsticks* and *Over the Brooklyn Bridge* — none of which was much good.

She was married and divorced twice, moving her home from New York to Venezuela to Paris and leading a fast-paced life that was going nowhere.

Her second marriage — to Venezuelan documentary film producer Bernard Fouche — finally hit the rocks and Hemingway all but disappeared.

Some two and a half years ago she spent a month in the Betty Ford Clinic in Rancho Mirage, California, and has been sober since. She also lost 75 pounds (35 kg).

Last year she completed a movie in Paris, *Love in C Minor*, and hopes it will lead to a revived acting career in Hollywood, where she currently lives.

"I'm single and in charge of my own life for the first time," she said. "It's a marvellous feeling."

"Going to the Betty Ford Clinic changed my life around," she said. "I wanted to cause a commotion," she said. "I wanted

to pose sleek and sophisticated, like an Italian version of *Vogue* — no garter belts or fishnet stockings. I wore nothing.

"It was artistically done in Guatemala and British Honduras. It was very high energy, high voltage. I've always been comfortable in front of a still camera, but I was nervous about posing nude."

Her younger sister Mariel twice posed nude for Playboy and was seen several times sunwashed in the movies *Personal Best* and *Star 80*.

"Mariel saw my layout and telephoned to say she loved it," Margaux said. "That's really a compliment."

"Things have changed between us. We get along real well now, but we've never seen a lot of each other. Mariel spends a great deal in Ketchum and Sun Valley."

Hemingway said many of her personal demons stem from the fact that she is dyslexic, making it difficult for her to read scripts. As she gained fame she became ever more insecure.

"You cannot abuse yourself. I developed Bulimia. I lost respect for Bernard and worse, I lost my self-respect."

"I drank because I was living with fear. Afraid of not living up to my grandfather's image."

"Now I have no desire for alcohol or cocaine. That's the most important change in my life."

Art

Goya: last of the Old Masters

FRANCISCO Goya is sometimes called the "last of the Old Masters" and sometimes the "first modern painter." He can fulfil both roles in a way quite peculiar to him.

One of the leading authorities on his painting, Sanchez Canton, says of Goya: "If an absurd cataclysm should erase all trace of the man Goya, yet leave his works intact, critics would find as their only common denominator their Spanishness; their other qualities would cause these works to be attributed to different and quite diverse artists who weren't even contemporaries."

The Goya we encounter depends upon which painting or etching we are studying.

There is Goya the tapestry designer, who works in bright colours and broad designs of charming genre scenes of rustic pastimes. His designs, or "cartoons," would be hard to date or even to place as some of them do not even suggest "Spannishness."

There is the Goya of searing scenes of human misery under war and Napoleonic invasion.

These were very forward-looking because paintings of common people in contemporary events were not considered fit material for fine art in the early 19th century. Edouard Manet and the Impressionists struggled to make such subjects acceptable. Even Pablo Picasso was influenced by Goya.

There is the Goya of disturbing phantasmagoria and the so-called Black Paintings which might be considered forerunners of the work of 20th-century artists Edvard Munch and Francis Bacon.

It might even be said that there are two distinct types of Goya portraits. One is more what we expect of a great portraitist: a solid rendering and feeling for the sitter's presence. Among these paintings, we have brilliant presentations of the titled and wealthy, including a chilling portrait of the tyrannical Ferdinand VII, King of Spain in Goya's last years.

But this charming portrait of Maria Ana Coeddes de Vettosa and Marquesa de Pontejos, is somewhat different. This particular genre of full-length portraits of stylishly clad ladies in outdoor settings is said to have begun with Anthony Van Dyke's paintings in Genoa, Italy, a century earlier. From there the much-travelled Flemish painter went to England where he delineated the court of Charles I with bravura elegance. English painters like Gainsborough and

Reynolds picked up this manner of portraiture.

As there is something reminiscent of the English painters in this portrait (maybe it's the "Gainsborough hat"), it is theorized that Goya had access to mezzotint engravings of their best work. However, Goya harked back to the fine silver and pink colour scheme which his predecessor of a century prior, Diego Velazquez, used so effectively.

But the brushwork is Goya at his most brilliant. Even Velazquez would have been hard put to equal the exquisite rendering of the extraordinarily delightful "shepherdess" style, own with its gauzy overskirt. If one looks carefully at the area where the pleating falls over her daintily feet one can see not only the ankles showing through but also a hint of the lace edging her purplish underskirt.

And nothing could be more charming than the tiny real roses nestled into the folds of the puffed skirt with their ribbons bows.

But what about the woman posing? What do we learn about her besides the fact that she can afford the fanciest attire, has a tiny waist, and likes flowers? We wonder why the pink carnation droops in her consciously elegant

grasp. Some art historians have theorized that the rather scant attention paid to the lady's face indicated Goya's irritation with the frivolity and shallowness of the court. Certainly, in various etchings his inscriptions indicate these feelings.

However, in 1786 when Goya executed this elegant painting he had just been made a painter to King Carlos III. It was an honour which he had sought since 1779. A letter to a friend records his joy and elation when the monarch, his son, and daughter came to see some of Goya's paintings or cartoons for tapestries. Being a painter to the king brought with it a comfortable stipend and greater access to the aristocracy.

His experience as a tapestry designer shows prominently in the background of this portrait with its vaguely stylized treatment of the foliage. The various horizontal bands of greens set off the silvery vertical of the figure. Three diagonally placed bands of the reddish ground in front of the dog, the sandy ground on which the figure stands with a group of tiny wild flowers, and the very amorphous hand of dark green give a feeling of forward movement to the otherwise stationary group.

The head, doctors and staff of the Paediatrics Department at Farwaniya Hospital extend their heartfelt condolences to

Dr. AbdulHakim Malek and family
on the sad demise of his **FATHER**

May His Soul Rest in Peace

EGYPTAIR EGYPTAIR EGYPTAIR

EGYPTAIR

PUBLIC TENDER

Egyptair Corporation invites specialised companies in decoration and office supplies to take part in the public tender for the decoration and supplies of the Corporation's new office in Sour Tower - Al Sour St. - Kuwait City. The new premises includes the Sales office in the ground floor, telephone booking in the mezzanine and the Administration office in the 3rd floor. Documents for the tender can be obtained from the present Egyptair office located in Safat Square — Al Maseel Souk — Mezzanine — Abdulla Al Mubarak St. — beside the Science Museum.

The Tender Book's fee is KD.50.00.

Date for opening the application offers is

Tuesday, May 1, 1990 at 12 noon.

Offers should be submitted in closed envelopes at the present Egyptair premises.

The offers must be supported with the following:

- Previous experience in similar works.
- The company foundation documents.
- Provisional deposit of 1 per cent from the total value of the offer, an essential condition.
- The financial position of the company through an authorized bank's letter.
-

Evert aims to start a family by winter

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C., April 6. (Reuter) Chris Evert is too busy to start a family this summer - but she hopes to become pregnant by winter when her schedule is less hectic.

"This month I'm not pregnant," the 34-year-old former Wimbledon and US Open Champion said yesterday. "If it happens, it will be wonderful, but we are not trying right now."

Evert, who married former Olympic skier Andy Mill in 1988, said that her plan had always been to wait to have children until a year after she retired. She made her farewell appearance last September at the US Open.

"I always said I would wait a year after I retired. The next six months are very strenuous with commitments I have made. I hate to put my schedule ahead of a baby, but it would be much easier if I could be pregnant next winter," Evert said.

Evert has been busier in retirement than she was on the professional tour, devoting her time to endorsement commitments, television commercials, charity events and an exhibition tour with Martina Navratilova.

"I can't tell you what a typical day of retirement is like because I haven't had one," Evert said. "I've been on the road the last four months."

Evert was named special adviser to the US Tennis Association yesterday and will actively monitor the progress at major events of team members such as 14-year-old Jennifer Capriati, who has dubbed her successor as the queen of American tennis.

She also makes her debut as a television commentator this week with Bud Collins for NBC and will also cover the French Open and Wimbledon for the network in partnership with a former boyfriend, two-time Wimbledon champion Jimmy Connors.

During her 18 years on the professional tour Evert won a record 157 singles titles, including 15 in Grand Slam events.

Gilbert routs Brown for quarterfinals

ORLANDO, Fla., April 6. (Reuter) Top seed Brad Gilbert regained his top form and easily turned back fellow American Jimmy Brown 6-2 6-1 in a 54-minute second round match at the \$250,000 Orlando Tennis Classic yesterday.

The fifth-ranked Gilbert, who was extremely unhappy with his play during Wednesday's first round win, clearly found his groove against Brown.

"I stroked the ball a lot better today," Gilbert said. "I had a good practice out there."

Second seed Aaron Krickstein, however, was forced to withdraw after suffering a pulled right hamstring during practice allowing unknown West German Alexis Hohmacher to advance without hitting a ball.

The 19-year-old Hohmacher, who will play American David Pate in the quarterfinals said: "I feel bad for Aaron, but I'm a young, up-and-coming player and I'll take a win any day. It's a big break for me."

Gilbert, who next faces countryman Joey Rive, constantly attacked the 121st-ranked Brown's weak second serve with success and forced his unseeded opponent into numerous errors with a tricky slice backhand.

The other quarterfinals pit third seed Christo van Rensburg of South Africa against Australian Jason Stoltenberg, while fourth seed Scott Davis takes on fellow American Maliva.

Vijay Amritraj faces suspension

NEW DELHI, April 6. (Reuter) Vijay Amritraj, India's leading tennis player, faces suspension by his country's authorities after allegations of misconduct.

The secretary of the All India Tennis Association (Aita), Rajkumar Khanna, said on Wednesday Amritraj had until April 18 to explain "acts of indiscipline or face suspension."

For the past 18 months, the Aita executive committee has been following with increasing disapproval the actions and utterances of Amritraj, Khanna said.

"After reviewing the case it came to the conclusion that the time had come to take disciplinary action against him."

Richards & Co. slam England

Best boosts West Indies

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 6. (Reuter) Carlisle Best hit a brilliant maiden Test century and Viv Richards marked his return with thrilling innings of 70 as West Indies took charge on the opening day of the fourth cricket Test against England yesterday.

Barbadian Best pulled fast bowler Devon Malcolm for his 12th four to complete his century from what proved to be the last delivery of the day at Kensington Oval.

A pitch invasion by his ecstatic

fellow Bajans caused delay of several minutes before the empires' offer to go off for bad light was accepted by the batsmen.

West Indies, put in by England captain Allan Lamb when he won the toss, were 311 for five at the close with Best unbeaten on 102, having faced 160 balls and batted for 294 minutes.

Best was the cornerstone for West Indies while his captain Richards, who missed the third Test with recurrence of haemorrhoids, came in at 108 for three

and fired his team with a compelling ball century.

Richards was particularly savage on Devon Malcolm, England's fast bowling hero of the first and third Tests who ended the day having conceded 105 runs in 19.3 overs without taking a wicket.

Gladstone Small and David Capel each took two wickets while the other fell to fellow pace bowler Phillip DeFreitas, a late inclusion for the injured Angus Fraser.

England, who lead 1-0 in the five-test series, were also without captain Graham Gooch, whose left hand was broken in two places in the previous Test, and replacement opener David Smith, who was ruled out by a bruised thumb.

The pitch lacked much of the life it was expected to produce and, although quick, was close to being an ideal batting track with the ball coming on to the bat.

England's four-man pace attack generally howled too short and were unable to repeat their heroic performances of the opening Test in Kingston, where the touring team won by nine wickets, and the drawn third Test in Pon of Spain.

Richards, bitterly disappointed at his dismissal when well set, now needs a further 56 runs to pass Sir Garfield Sobers' record for Test runs by a West Indian of 8,032.

In his first-class innings since February 26, Richards gave an hint of his absence from the game as he tore in to the England attack after a brief look at the bowling. He began his assault by hitting Capel for two fours in an over and then took 18 off one Malcolm over.

The West Indian captain had arrogantly declared before the match that "these Englishmen need teaching a lesson," and he seemed to be carrying out his threat when he hooked Malcolm twice for six as well as cutting him four in the space of four deliveries.

Richards and Best put on 119 for the fourth wicket, the first 50

being scored in only 52 balls, of which Richard's contribution was 41.

Richard's next 29 runs took 20 overs before Capel, in a fine second spell, contained and finally dismissed the Antiguan with an outwinger which was edged to Jack Russell.

Best reached his half century from 90 balls and then beat his previous highest Test score of 65 against England in the series opener in Kingston.

Bev and a helter-skelter Gus Logie put on 64 in 14 overs before Logie was caught behind off Capel for 31 from 51 balls, leaving Jeff Dujon to partner Best to three figures.

England had made the ideal start to the match when Desmond Haynes went for nought when he was undone by extra bounce from Small's sixth ball and caught at short leg.

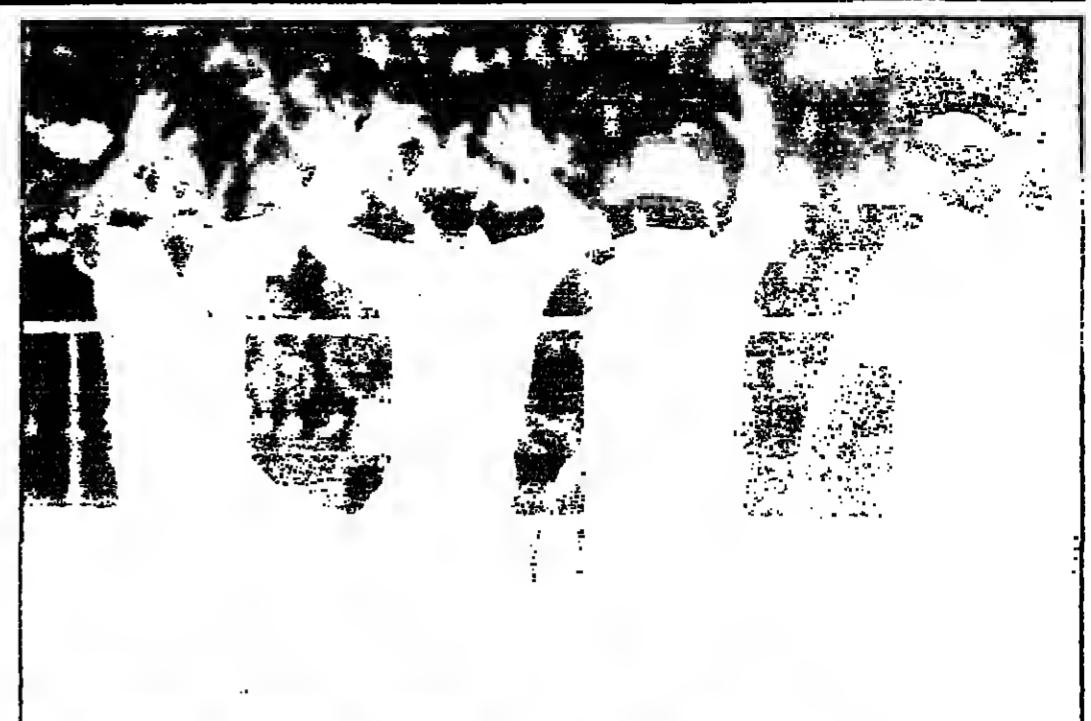
Richie Richardson, dropped on nine by Capel in the gully off DeFreitas, went on to add 63 in 21 overs with Gordon Greenidge for the second wicket.

DeFreitas broke the stand when he got one to go away off the seam and take the edge of Greenidge's bat to give Russell a catch, the opener's 41 came off 77.

The admirable Small dismissed Richardson when an attempted hook was top-edged to Russell, the Antiguan having made 45 from 89 balls with eight fours.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings	
G Greenidge c Russell b DeFreitas	41
D Haynes c Stewart b Small	4
R Richardson c Russell b Small	45
C Best not out	102
V Richards c Russell b Capel	70
G Logie c Russell b Capel	31
J Dujon not out	2
Extras (4 nb-16)	20
Total (five wickets)	311
Fall of wickets 1-62-69-3-108-227-5-291	
To bat M Marshall, E Moseley, C Ambrose, T Bishop	
Bowling (to date) Malcolm 19-3-3-3-105-0, Small 21-3-62-2, DeFreitas 22-2-80-1, Capel 19-4-60-2	
England W Latkens, A Stewart, R Bailey, A Lamb (captain), D Malcolm	



English players celebrate with DeFreitas (left) after Greenidge was dismissed. (Reuter wirephoto)



DeFreitas (right) shows his joy at dismissing Greenidge. (Reuter wirephoto)

Riders slam track ahead of US GP

MONTERREY, California, April 6. (Reuter) Wayne Gardner has good reason to feel apprehensive about Sunday's US Motorcycle Grand Prix.

The Australian smashed his leg badly on the Laguna Seca circuit in last year's race, a crash that cost him any chance of the world 500 cc crown.

Honda rider Gardner said after a recent test: "I'm very, very wary around here. I still think it's a dangerous track. It's being improved but they still have a way to go."

The 1987 world champion wants more run-off areas with more open ground — and less concrete walls.

Gardner is not only leading rider to express concern. Riders' safety representative Sito Pons of Spain, twice 250 cc world champion and now in the bigger-engined class, said: "I have already talked to the organisers. They know what to do and want to do it. But they must do it."

Gardner apart, two other riders were hurt last year, though the track could not be blamed.

Promising American Bobba Shobert was critically injured on a post-race slowing down lap after colliding with Australian Kevin Magee.

Shobert has recovered enough to ride a street bike but he cannot race.

Laguna Seca director Lee Mozzelle said: "We are making these changes. Number one because we are as interested in safety as the riders are. It may not be our bodies, but it is in our interest too."

Gardner made a good start in the 1990 series, finishing second behind American Wayne Rainey in last month's season-opener in Japan.

Rainey, second in last year's championship, said he does not feel threatened by the presence of reigning champion and compatriot Eddie Lawson in his own Yamaha team.

"If anything, it's going to help," said Rainey, faster of the two in pre-season testing. "He brings a lot of experience to the team."

Gardner predicts a four-way battle for the honours this season: Lawson, Rainey, and another American, Kevin Schwantz, plus himself.

McCallum to face Watson in title fight

LONDON, April 6. (Reuter) Mike McCallum fended off questions about his age yesterday and said the only question to be settled by his World Boxing Association (WBA) middleweight title defence was how easily he would beat Briton Michael Watson.

The Jamaican champion and Watson met face to face in a news conference with a distinct sense of déjà vu — the April 14 fight was originally scheduled for last November but was called off when the challenger broke his nose in sparring.

McCallum, 33 and nicknamed "The Body Snatcher," for his ferocious body punching that has seen through seven successful title defences, was repeatedly asked about his age as reporters openly suggested he might be past his best.

At first he refused to divulge his date of birth — despite it being widely known — but was finally stung into speech by a barbed remark by Watson's manager Mickey Duff.

"Michael has benefited from the champion having another fight (against Steve Collins in Boston in February). At his age it's something he needs like a hole in the head. If he had another fight I'd be even more delighted," said Duff.

"You are going to see on the 14th. You don't have to worry about my age. I'll still be the champion," said McCallum who moved up a division and won the vacant title in London last May against Briton Herol Graham on a split points decision.

He won the Collins fight on points after 12 rounds and has a record of 38 fights and only one defeat.

Capriati upsets Sanchez

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C., April 6. (Reuter) American teen sensation Jennifer Capriati crushed French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-1 6-1 in just 45 minutes yesterday for the biggest win of her blossoming professional career.

Capriati's complete domination of the fifth-ranked Sanchez Vicario in their third-round encounter at this \$500,000 clay court event was doubly impressive coming on the Spaniard's favourite surface.

"This is my best win," said the 14-year-old Capriati, who will face eighth-seeded Canadian Helen Kelesi in the quarterfinals.

"At first I thought it was going to be tough because she is a top player, but I got ahead and never gave her a chance to get back into the match."

Capriati, who turned professional last month, controlled the baseline rallies with powerful groundstrokes as she ran the frustrated Sanchez Vicario from side-to-side.

"I played well against Sukova the first time I played her, but I played better today," she said.

"I hit the ball into the middle of the court, she hit

a winner every time. Nothing worked for me today," said the second-seeded Spaniard.

Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia took advantage of a lack of concentration from seventh-seeded Peruvian Laura Gildemeister to score a 6-4 2-2 upset and join Capriati as the only unseeded players in the quarterfinals. Rajchrtova will play third-seeded American Zina Garrison.

Fourth seed Conchita Martinez of Spain also advanced to a quarterfinal against sixth-seeded Soviet Natalia Zvereva, while fifth seed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria earned a showdown with top seed Martina Navratilova, who she upset last week in Houston.

Capriati, playing in just her third tournament since turning pro, is not yet ranked. But she reached the final in her professional debut and upset top-10 player Helena Sukova twice in as many weeks last month.

"I played well against Sukova the first time I played her, but I played better today," she said.

Tennis stars to face protests

JOHANNESBURG, April 6. (Reuter) Anti-apartheid activists pledged yesterday to burn effigies of US and Australian tennis stars this weekend in protest at their participation in a South Africa tournament.

"Anti-apartheid committees nationally will burn effigies of the tennis players involved in the present games as one of the forms of protest action," said the co-organiser National Sports Congress.

Seventh-seed Brad Pearce was also knocked out, losing 6-3 5-7 6-1 to Paul Vojtisek of West Germany.

Motta loses

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 6. (Reuter) Third seed Brazilian Cassio Motta lost his concentration and the match after having problems with the umpire during the Rio de Janeiro Open tennis tournament yesterday.

Motta went down 7-6 18-6 6-3 to unseeded Simone Colombo of Italy after Australian umpire Chris O'Brien penalised him one point for arguing during his second round match.

Seventh-seed Brad Pearce was also knocked out, losing 6-3 5-7 6-1 to Paul Vojtisek of West Germany.

The trip will be a career for the boys. The idea is also to arrange some sporting competitions down there between them and other youngsters," said Botyka drug rehabilitation chief Berit Astrom.

Nazario, 26, was ahead on all three judges' scorecards when the fight was stopped.

Nazario, 26, claimed the cut, which bled down the side of his eye, was caused by a head butt.

"He's never been a world champion," Rosario said. "So he must have been hungry because he's a world champion now."

Nazario stops Rosario

NEW YORK, April 6. (Reuter) Juan Nazario, fighting like a buzz saw, won the World Boxing Association lightweight title after opening a deep cut over the eye of fellow Puerto Rican Edwin Rosario which forced the referee to stop the fight after the eighth round on Wednesday.

Nazario, 26, was ahead on all three judges' scorecards when the fight was stopped.

Rosario, 26, claimed the cut, which bled down the side of his eye, was caused by a head butt.

"He's never been a world champion," Rosario said. "So he must have been hungry because he's a world champion

Marseille, Juventus, Anderlecht win

Milan edge Bayern

LONDON, April 6. (Reuters): A solitary goal struck from the penalty spot by European Footballer of the Year Marco van Basten kept alive AC Milan's hopes of retaining the European Cup on Wednesday when they beat Bayern Munich 1-0 in a tightly-contested semifinal first leg in Italy.

Van Basten, who spearheads both the Milan and Netherlands attacks, scored 13 minutes from the end of the outstanding tie on a night of four semifinals in three European soccer competitions.

But his goal, after he was held back by Juergen Kohler, was scant reward for some persistent attacking play on a difficult pitch and may not be enough to guarantee survival when the Italians visit Bavaria for the second leg in two weeks.

Bayern, winners of the premier European trophy in 1975, 1976 and 1977, will start the second leg as favourites to clinch their place in the final to be played in Vienna on May 23 after surviving a torrid test in front of 65,000 fans at the Giuseppe Meazza stadium.

The other European Cup semifinal in Marseille was equally finely balanced with Portuguese champions Benfica striking an early goal but finally losing 2-1 to the French champions.

Adesuado Lima headed Benfica ahead in the 10th minute, but goals by Franck Sauze and Jean-Pierre Papin, his sixth in the competition this season, secured victory for the Frenchmen whose president Bernard Tapis has invested \$45 million in the hope of seeing them become the first

French team to win the trophy.

Tapie and his team, like AC Milan and their president Silvio Berlusconi, were hoping for a more emphatic winning margin from their home leg in order to

set up a dream Mediterranean final between the Italian bolders and the French champions.

"It is very difficult now to say whether 2-1 will be enough for us to get through, but we have never

lost away in the European Cup this season," said Marseille coach Gerard Gil.

"One thing is certain — we shall play the same attacking game in Lisbon as we did tonight."

For Milan, the disappointment in securing only a one-goal advantage must have been aggravated by frustration in knowing that their most influential player, Dutchman Ruud Gullit, is only weeks away from fitness.

It was his explosive creative play and finishing which launched Milan to their crushing victories over Real Madrid and Steaua Bucharest in last season's semifinal and final.

It was much the same story in the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup semifinals with only one goal dividing the teams involved.

In Brussels, Anderlecht, twice winner of the trophy, beat Dinamo Bucharest 1-0 in their Cup Winners' Cup tie, a 64th minute goal by Luc Nilis deciding the outcome.

The Romanians' goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea was unable to hold a fierce shot by Marc Degryse and Nilis was on hand to volley the ball in from close range.

In the UEFA Cup, Juventus cruised into a 3-0 lead in less than an hour against Cologne, but then allowed the West Germans to storm back into the game during the closing stages and ended up banging on for a 3-2 win.

Rui Barros put the Italians ahead after 21 minutes and further goals from Pier-Luigi Casiraghi and Giancarlo Marrochi put them totally in command before complacency crept in.

Enzo Francescoli (left) of Marseille and Benfica's Santos Aldair fight for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Libregts loses battle to save job

LONDON. April 6. (Reuters): Tony Cottee and Norman Whiteside scored two goals apiece to lead Everton to an emphatic 4-0 home victory over Nottingham Forest in the English Soccer First Division on Wednesday.

Cottee opened Everton's tally in the 12th minute and turned provider a minute later, supplying the pass which enabled the unmarked Whiteside to side-foot home a simple chance.

Northern Ireland international Whiteside headed the third a minute before the interval and Cottee netted the fourth, also from a header, four minutes before the final whistle.

The win lifted Everton into fourth place, 11 points adrift of city rivals Liverpool.

Norwich moved up to seventh with a 2-0 home win over Crystal

Palace, the goals coming in the first half from Tim Sherwood and an own goal by Gary O'Reilly.

England captain Bryan Robson is expected to make his return for Manchester United in their Football Association (FA) Cup semifinal against Oldham on Sunday after three and a half months on the sidelines.

Liverpool play Crystal Palace in the other semifinal, kicking off three and a half hours earlier at midday to allow television to show both matches live.

Television executives have added to the disturbance of tomorrow's normal English League programme by causing the top clash between champions Arsenal and second-placed Aston Villa to be moved to mid-week for live coverage.

United's FA Cup opponents,

Egypt stun Czechoslovakia

BRNO, Czechoslovakia, April 6. (Reuters): An opportunist goal by Mohammed Kas earned Egypt a surprise 1-0 victory over Czechoslovakia in a World Cup warm-up soccer international on Wednesday.

A long looping throw-in from the right in the 73rd minute bounced high into the Czechoslovak penalty area and Kas rose above the defence to head past goalkeeper Jan Stejskal.

The goal, completed against the run of play, was the highlight of an unspiring match.

Neither team gave any indication they might be able to set alight the World Cup finals in Italy this summer.

After losing 3-1 to Romania in Cairo last week and managing only goalless draws in their three previous home matches, the Egyptians' confidence will have been boosted by defeating a European team.

Czechoslovakia, in contrast, were humiliated. Although they created few

scoring opportunities, they dominated play until the goal.

Libregts guided the Dutch to the finals in Italy, which start on June 8, but has lost the confidence of leading players.

The court ruled relations between Dutch national side and Libregts had become "unworkable and untenable" and said the KNVB had the right under the circumstances to take necessary actions to put an end to the situation.

Flo Jo expecting child in Nov

NEW YORK, April 6. (AP): Florence Griffith Joyner, the heroine of the US squad at the 1988 Olympics, is expecting her first child in November, her business agent has announced.

"She was delighted to hear the news," Gordon Baskin said yesterday.

Griffith Joyner also known as Flo Jo, won gold medals in the 100-metre and 200-metre dashes and the 400-metre relay and a silver medal in the 1,600-metre at the Seoul games. She also is the world record-holder in the 100 and 200.

Her husband is Al Joyner, the 1984 Olympics gold medalist in the triple jump.

Only a handful of races, including the Grand Prix, were threatened to cancel the event this week if track owners Autodril did not guarantee use of the race track for domestic contests.

Autodril want to authorise

the government to take over sports installations if dialogue failed.

"If an accord is not reached about use of the track, the government will not hesitate in using the legal means to guarantee Portugal's Grand Prix," a statement said.

"It would be very serious if the Grand Prix did not take place in Portugal and was moved to another country for a lack of available installations. National interest would be seriously hurt," it added.

There was no immediate comment from the Portuguese Automobile Club (ACP) which threatened to cancel the event this week if track owners Autodril did not guarantee use of the race track for domestic contests.

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ACP president Cesar Torres

said later that in the light of the government's decision he had registered Portugal's race with the International Motor Sports Federation by yesterday's deadline.

Torres said contacts between

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the government to take over sports installations if dialogue failed.

ACP president Cesar Torres

said later that in the light of the government's decision he had registered Portugal's race with the International Motor Sports Federation by yesterday's deadline.

Torres said contacts between

the ACP, government and Autodril were continuing to resolve the conflict over domestic events.

lost away in the European Cup this season," said Marseille coach Gerard Gil.

"One thing is certain — we shall play the same attacking game in Lisbon as we did tonight."

For Milan, the disappointment in securing only a one-goal advantage must have been aggravated by frustration in knowing that their most influential player, Dutchman Ruud Gullit, is only weeks away from fitness.

It was his explosive creative play and finishing which launched Milan to their crushing victories over Real Madrid and Steaua Bucharest in last season's semifinal and final.

It was much the same story in the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup semifinals with only one goal dividing the teams involved.

In Brussels, Anderlecht, twice winner of the trophy, beat Dinamo Bucharest 1-0 in their Cup Winners' Cup tie, a 64th minute goal by Luc Nilis deciding the outcome.

The Romanians' goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea was unable to hold a fierce shot by Marc Degryse and Nilis was on hand to volley the ball in from close range.

In the UEFA Cup, Juventus cruised into a 3-0 lead in less than an hour against Cologne, but then allowed the West Germans to storm back into the game during the closing stages and ended up banging on for a 3-2 win.

Rui Barros put the Italians ahead after 21 minutes and further goals from Pier-Luigi Casiraghi and Giancarlo Marrochi put them totally in command before complacency crept in.

Enzo Francescoli (left) of Marseille and Benfica's Santos Aldair fight for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Everton blast Forest

LONDON. April 6. (Reuters): Tony Cottee and Norman Whiteside scored two goals apiece to lead Everton to an emphatic